

View results

Respondent

121

Anonymous

61:12

Time to complete

1. CLUB/SERVICE *

North Bondi Surf Lifesaving Club

2. BRANCH *

- Far North Coast
- North Coast
- Mid North Coast
- Lower North Coast
- Hunter
- Central Coast
- Sydney Northern Beaches
- Sydney
- Illawarra
- South Coast
- Far South Coast

3. DATE OF INCIDENT *

4. TIME OF INCIDENT *

5. NAME/S OF LIFESAVERS(S)/LIFEGUARD(S) INVOLVED IN RESCUE (check that all nominees are proficient and members on SurfGuard) *

6. LOCATION OF INCIDENT *

7. SURFGUARD INCIDENT NUMBER (if available). *Please note all rescues should be recorded either during or after hours*

8. NOMINATING PERSON NAME *

9. NOMINATING PERSON EMAIL ADDRESS *

10. NOMINATING PERSON CONTACT NUMBER *

11. NOMINATING PERSON CLUB/ORGANISATION *

North Bondi Surf Lifesaving Club

12. OVERVIEW OF THE INCIDENT *

Claudia ("Nallah") Hamilton, Aged 28, rescued 6 people in rough conditions at Blueys Beach at 5:30pm on 13 January showing exceptional skill and bravery. Blueys is un-patrolled.

While sitting on a balcony above the beach she and family and friends noticed several people being swept out to sea in a fast flowing rip, about 100m away.

Nallah ran to assist, grabbing the only flotation device she could find on the way, an old boogie board.

Conditions were rough, there was an onshore wind and an outgoing tide. There was also a lateral rip (trench) parallel to the beach feeding a main rip which had trapped the swimmers.

She paddled to them, reaching the first 3 them about 25m offshore. (2 adults and 1 child)

Instructing this group to hold the board, she then went to aid another child further out to bring her to the group on the board.

They all then, as instructed by Nallah, started to move diagonally across the rip to a sandbank about 10m to the south. This took about 10 minutes, hampered by waves breaking over them. By the time they were on the bank, all, including Nallah were exhausted.

However, Nallah then heard screams from a father and daughter further out; about 25m away.

Taking the boogieboard, she returned into the rip and paddled to them noticing the father propping his young daughter above the water while himself going under.

When she reached them, she put the young girl on the board, with her father behind her to secure her and so that he could kick.

They then tried to go back to the south sand bank. A number of times they got close enough to get their toes on, but kept getting swept off. After about 15 minutes, Nallah could feel herself starting to slip, she was swallowing water and running out of energy. She screamed out to onlookers, including her mum on the beach for help.

In response a man made his way over on the sandbank, and a friend took another route to a sandbank on the northern side of the rip which is where Nallah and her patients, started to head.

As they got close to the northern bank, the bystander reached them and with the help of the friend now on the sandbank they were all able to get out of the rip.

However from this bank they still had to get across the trench which was flowing fast and feeding the main rip.

By this time, another friend had found a rope and after tying it to his waste he swam over the trench.

The group then used the rope secured by friends on the beach and on the bank to pull themselves across and to safety.

The ordeal had taken 30-40 minutes.

Nallah has been a member of NBSLC since 2005 when she joined as a nipper. She earned Gold Medallion in 2011. She returned to lifesaving in 2020 when she returned from a 5 year stay in London

13. SKILL & RESOURCES APPLICATION (40%) (please use brief bullet point format)

- 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? *

- The beach is unpatrolled, and there was no "standard" lifesaving equipment
- Nallah showed ingenuity, by taking the boogie board
- She showed exceptional and advanced skills using very limited equipment reading the conditions, and incredible athleticism
- For the most part, she was the only person on the beach with skills and ability to help the swimmers in distress. -- There were no surfers around and only very late in the rescue did others become involved.

14. PROCEDURES FOLLOWED (30%) (please use brief bullet point format)

- Were SOP's followed?
- Was the safety of the rescuers involved appropriately assessed?
- Was there appropriate leadership, chain of command, good scene mgmt, paperwork, follow-ups, etc?
- Was the equipment utilised appropriately? *

Nallah felt within her skills and was comfortable in the water until the point she started to become exhausted. All the while however, she maintained composure, and was able to keep directing and encouraging her patients.

15. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS (15%) (please use brief bullet point format)

- 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? *

Conditions were rough, there was an onshore wind and an outgoing tide.
There were two sandbanks and a rip in between.
There was also a lateral rip (trench) parallel to the beach feeding a main rip which had trapped the swimmers.

16. MEDIA CAPTURE/COMMUNICATION (5%) (please use brief bullet point format)

- Were opportunities maximised in terms of media exposure? Please give a brief overview of media exposure. Any additional articles or media releases can be emailed to ROTMNOMINATION@surflifesaving.com.au or please paste url in box below *

No. The media has not been informed or notified.