

View results

Respondent

131

Anonymous

16:19

Time to complete

1. CLUB/SERVICE *

Elouera Surf Lifesaving club

2. BRANCH *

Sydney



3. DATE OF INCIDENT *

5th February 2023

4. TIME OF INCIDENT *

3.02pm

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

Sydney Branch Rescue Water Craft operators
Nicole 'Nixy' Krite – Support Ski 1 primary rescuer
Andrew McKellar – Support Ski 2
Tammy Payne – Support Ski 5 (visitor from QLD)

Elouera Patrol 8
Emily Zytaruk - Patrol Captain
Tim Grant - Patrol -Vice Captain
Kirron Duncan - IRB Driver
Brett Pritchard - IRB Crew
David Kowald - BM Roving patrol @ North Cronulla
Ashton Prowse - SRC Roving patrol @ North Cronulla
Xavier Byrnes - SRC Roving patrol @ North Cronulla
Austin Alexander - SRC Roving patrol @ North Cronulla

Mal Boon - BM
Kaitlyn Byrnes - BM
Paul Byrnes - BM
Tara Collier - BM
Brooke Collins - BM
Bailey Duncan - BM
Holly Edmunds - BM
Lee Edmunds - BM
Greg Gillan - BM
Chris Hall - BM
Madison Hall -BM
Andrew Hay - BM
Natalie Hay BM
Amelie Humphries - BM
Robert Humphries - BM
Neill Hunt - BM
Dean McLennan - BM
Mikaela Mead - BM
Steven Mead - BM
Jack Prowse - BM
Kayla Pyett - BM
Ross Pyett - BM
Will Soulos - BM
Joshua Walmsley - BM

Brady Bacon - SRC
Jye Collier - SRC
Karl Gillan - SRC
Ryan Gillan - SRC
Charlotte Wisdom SRC

North Cronulla - Patrol 12
Megan Kessey - Patrol Captain
Tulley Lane - Patrol -Vice Captain & IRB Driver
Layla King - IRB Crew
Reagan Boggiss - BM

Annika Freiheit - BM
Kirra Hidge - BM
James Hards - BM
Ashlyn Lloyd - BM
Milly Newton - BM
Jane Lanham - BM
Sarah O'Connor - BM

Sydney Branch Duty Officers
Michael Bonicci – Sutherland 21
Louise Skjeime – Sutherland 20

Sutherland Shire Lifeguards

- Mackenzie Hannington (Council RWC)
- Zachary Roja (Nth Lifeguard)
- Callum Redrup (Nth Lifeguard)
- Chris Iredale (Elouera Lifeguard)
- Bede Elphick (Team Leader)

6. LOCATION OF INCIDENT *

North Cronulla

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

L230205026

8. NOMINATING PERSON NAME *

Andrew McKellar

9. NOMINATING PERSON EMAIL ADDRESS *

lifesaving@elouera.com

10. NOMINATING PERSON CONTACT NUMBER *

0433353958

11. NOMINATING PERSON CLUB/ORGANISATION *

Elouera SLSC / Director of Lifesaving

12. OVERVIEW OF THE INCIDENT *

On the 5th of February 2023 around 3pm, a mass rescue took place at North Cronulla. It was 26 degrees sunny and humid with a good attendance at all Bate Bay beaches. The swell was between 1 to 1.5 meters at a 10 second interval and wind 13kph from the east. There were many banks and rips all the way along the Bate Bay beaches resulting in dangerous conditions for swimmers when they ventured outside the flagged areas. Around 3pm the North Cronulla Patrol Captain spotted a large group of people in distress as they were swept off a bank on the edge of the northern patrol flag and initiated a Mass Rescue call to Surf Com.

Moments prior to the North Cronulla radio call Sydney Branch RWC Support Ski 1, Nicole 'Nixy' KRITE observed the situation unfolding and expedited to the scene. Nicole quickly assessed the scene and determined a 47 year old male was in desperate need of assistance as he was unconscious and not breathing face down in the water. The RWC already had several other members of the public on the rescue sled as the unconscious male was being retrieved by Nicole who was able to make 1 radio call to surf com that a male patient was unconscious and not breathing. The Elouera IRB expedited to the scene and the unconscious patient was transferred on the water to the IRB where he was returned to shore at Elouera. During the short distanced to the beach, CPR was commenced in the IRB. Once on the shore, under the direction of the Elouera Patrol Captain, Emily Zytaruk and with the assistance of Sutherland Shire Lifeguards Bede Elphick and Chris Iredale and IRB members Kirron Duncan and Brett Pritchard continued with emergency critical care for this most serious patient until the arrival of the NSW Ambulance.

There is no doubt that the quick response of Nicole on Support Ski 1 and the transfer of this patient to Elouera IRB Kirron and Brett and their immediate CPR first aid response whilst in transit, then supported by the Sutherland Shire Lifeguards Bede and Chris and the continued critical care saved this gentleman's life. This is an outstanding demonstration of collaboration between lifesaving services in Bate Bay and New South Wales

After the transfer of this critical patient, more than 20 swimmers were rescued and taken to safety by Nicole on Support Ski 1 making multiple trips to the shore and returning to collect more patients requiring assistance. The council jet ski operator who recently acquired his award also was pivotal in the rescue of swimmers and returning them to shore at North Cronulla with lifeguards on rescue boards recovering swimmers in difficulty. Lifeguards rescued another 8 swimmers from the water with volunteers assisting all patients from the water onto the shore in the mass rescue operation. A total of 28 patients were rescued during this Mass Rescue operation.

After the rescues, Elouera and North Cronulla beaches were closed with the flags dropped whilst all patients were being attended to by Volunteers, Lifeguards and the NSW Ambulance. An Elouera roving patrol assisted at North Cronulla maintaining a communications link to Surf Com and with the arrival of multiple NSW Ambulances to the scene. 3 Sydney Branch RWC and the Council jet ski continued to patrol from North Cronulla to Wanda beaches and monitor the water conditions and remove swimmers from the water for the next 3 hours.

It was an example of the quick response, dedication and excellent collaboration of volunteers and lifeguards in Bate Bay working together during the mass rescue.

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? *

Without a doubt, the quick response by Sydney RWC Support Ski 1, Nicole Krite, in the identification of unfolding incident and the provision of immediate critical care and rescuing those most in need first. The 4 most critical patients rescued this day owe their lives to her immediate response and actions of Nicole and the other rescuers. The skills she has learnt and delivered as an RWC operator and trainer where critical in these actions have been echoed by the Lifeguard supervisor,

I would like to acknowledge the female Support Ski operator in particular. She was very impressive and is to be commended on her actions, capability, and response - Outstanding! Nicole is by virtue of the meaning a true Lifesaver.

The positive collaboration between lifeguards and volunteer lifesavers in Bate Bay is also a contributing factor to the positive outcome with their ability to work together as one team for the common goal of saving lives.

The two Sydney duty officer on scene, Michael Bonnici and Louise Skjeime assisted both clubs in the coordination and support during the incident and provided one of the most caring, empathetic and professional debrief that members have been involved in with extremely positive feedback.

Skills:

- * Ability to communicate effectively with other members of the rescue team
 - * Ability to operate and rescue patients in close proximity on the RWC
 - * Knowledge of first aid and CPR and being able to undertake these techniques on multiple patients
 - * Ability to use life-saving equipment
- Resources:
- * Rescue Water Craft & Council Jet Ski
 - * Rescue boards
 - * IRB - Inflatable rescue boats
 - * Radio communications
 - * Rescue tubes
 - * Collaboration between SLS Volunteers and Lifeguards

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? *

Standard operating procedures were followed from the initial radio call of the Mass Rescue by North Cronulla patrol which alerted Surf Com and neighbouring clubs, Branch Support Operations services, and Lifeguards of the unfolding situation. The quick response and interaction by Sydney Branch RWC, Council Lifeguards and Bate Bay IRB's. The interaction by the Elouera roving patrol at North Cronulla and the Elouera patrol with the provision of critical lifesaving first aid until the arrival of NSW Ambulance across two simultaneous locations.

Patrol members were tasked to meet NSW Ambulance at both North Cronulla and Elouera beaches. Additional first aid equipment including oxygen and defibrillators were retrieved from clubs due to the large number of patients in preparation of its potential use.

The most effective and efficient resources, RWC and rescue boards were deployed to return the distressed swimmers from the water to the shore where volunteer lifesavers were on hand to triage patients and provide initial emergency ongoing care.

These rescue techniques deployed during this mass rescue was the result of continued training and development of lifesaving skills and abilities over many years of education and training.

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? *

On the 5th of February 2023 around 3pm, a mass rescue took place at North Cronulla. It was 26 degrees sunny and humid with a good attendance at all Bate Bay beaches. The swell was between 1 to 1.5 meters at a 10 second interval and wind 13kph from the east. There were many banks and rips all the way along the Bate Bay beaches resulting in dangerous conditions for swimmers when they ventured outside the flagged areas. The incident unfolded on the edge of the flagged patrol area at North Cronulla.

The Sydney Branch RWC and Council Jet Ski had to work in very close proximity to all the water users at the time and negotiate the large number of other beach goes when resecuring and returning patients to the shore and returning for further rescues.

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 *

The rescue was reported in the local media and well as the main stream media on the nightly news that evening

<https://www.theleader.com.au/story/8073595/updated-twenty-people-rescued-at-north-cronulla-after-flash-rip/>