

View results

Respondent

207 Anonymous

94:28

Time to complete

1. CLUB/SERVICE *

Sydney Branch RWC, Wanda SLSC & Sutherland Shire Lifeguards

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 *

31st March 2024

4. TIME OF INCIDENT *

4pm

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

Mr Anthony CHING - member of the public
Christopher CHAMBERS - Sydney RWC operator
Elisha SINGLE - Wanda Patrol Captain
Mark DUNHAM - Wanda member
Mikaela SUTHERLAND - Wanda member
Molly PARKER - Sydney Duty Officer
Cameron PYETT - Sutherland Shire Lifeguard
William BANNISTER - Sutherland Shire Lifeguard

6. LOCATION OF INCIDENT *

1km north of Wanda SLSC, Greenhills Beach

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

85063

8. NOMINATING PERSON NAME *

Andrew McKellar

9. NOMINATING PERSON EMAIL ADDRESS *

nwc@surflifesavingsydney.com.au

10. NOMINATING PERSON CONTACT NUMBER *

0433353958

11. NOMINATING PERSON CLUB/ORGANISATION *

Sydney RWC Coordinator

12. OVERVIEW OF THE INCIDENT *

On Sunday the 31st March 2024, it was a sunny hot day, 28 degrees with good attendance at all Bate Bay beaches over the Easter long weekend. The swell was between 1 to 1.5 meters with a very slight wind. 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 safety of the flagged areas. A member of the public, Mr Anthony CHING was running about 1km north of the patrolled beach at Wanda when he noticed 3 people approximately 100 meters from shore standing on a sand bank. He continued to watch the males and observed them to be swept off the back of the bank into deep water. Mr CHING looked to try and obtain a surf board to take to the rescue but was not able to locate anyone.

The 3 males in the deep water were now calling for help as they tried to remain afloat in the deep water. It appeared that none of the 3 were swimmers. Mr CHING then proceeded to swim out to the 3 males. By the time Mr CHING had arrived, 1 of the males had made it back to the sand bank and this male was able to make his way back to shore. A young male with a bogie board made his way over and gave his board to Mr CHING. Mr CHING then secured the larger of the 2 males who was going below the surface and taking in water. This male was in the worst condition, secured onto the bogie board and moved to the bank and then to shore. He then went back for the 3rd male, also rescuing him with the bogie board returning him to shore.

Both males had swallowed water and began to cough up water whilst laying on the sand. Mr CHING then ran 1km to Wanda to raise the alarm of this incident. He returned to the scene with Sutherland Shire Lifeguards Cameron PYETT and Will BANNISTER in a side by side vehicle (SSV).

Surf Life Saving Sydney Branch Rescue Water Craft (RWC) Operator, Chris CHAMBERS, was traveling south and when in the vicinity of the rescue saw the SSV traveling north at speed and then observed males lying on the sand. He landed the RWC next to the patients on the sand. He could see that 2 adult males were in a serious condition and required urgent medical assistance. He then contacted Surf Com providing and initial report and requesting urgent medical assistance. Chris moved both patients that were lying on their backs, into the recovery position. When the Lifeguards arrived, oxygen was provided to the patient needing critical care. Basic life support was provided to the 2 most serious of the 3 patients.

With only 1 oxygen kit, a request was made to Surf Com for Wanda to bring additional equipment to the scene. Wanda Patrol Captain, Elisha SINGLE dispatched Wanda lifesavers, Mark DUNHAM and Mikaela SUTHERLAND in the Wanda SSV with additional oxygen kits and bottles to the scene.

Basic life support was provided to the 2 most serious patients. Sydney Duty Officer Molly PARKER, New South Wales Police and Fire Brigade then attended the scene. New South Wales Ambulance later attended the scene and 2 males were transported to St George hospital in a serious condition.

There is no doubt that the quick response of Mr CHING and his initial actions rescuing the patients from the water, then supported by the Sutherland Shire Lifeguards PYETT and BANNISTER including volunteer lifesavers, CHAMBERS, DUNHAM & SUTHERLAND provided the critical care that saved these 2 gentleman's lives. This is an outstanding demonstration of collaboration between lifesaving services in Bate Bay and New South Wales Emergency Services. This is another example of the quick response, dedication and excellent collaboration of volunteers and lifeguards in Bate Bay working together during a 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 Mr CHING, in the identification of unfolding incident and the provision of immediate critical care and rescuing those most in need first. The 2 most critical patients rescued this day owe their lives to the immediate response and actions of Mr CHING and the other rescuers. The skills learnt and delivered by the Lifeguards and Volunteer Lifesavers on this day saved 2 people's lives. The positive collaboration between Mr CHING, 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.

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 to Surf Com by the RWC operator, Branch Support Operations services, and Lifeguards of the unfolding situation. The quick response and interaction by Sydney Branch RWC, Council Lifeguards and Wanda Lifesavers. Additional first aid equipment including oxygen and defibrillators were retrieved from Wanda due to the distance from the patrolled beaches.

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? *

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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 *

This incident was reported in the Sutherland / St George leader at the time