

View results

Respondent

247

Anonymous

44:49

Time to complete

1. CLUB/SERVICE *

South Maroubra SLSC

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 *

27/1/2025

4. TIME OF INCIDENT *

3:10 PM

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

Simon Torsellini, (PC)
Ashleigh Breaden, (PC)
Matthew Evans (VC)
Kirsten Newrick (IRBD)
Simon McCartney (IRBC)
Lisa Morgan, (ART)
Andrew McCabe (BM)
Mark Arbib, (BM)
Zachary Messis , (BM)
Gavin Savage, (BM)
Jake Torsellini, (BM)
Max Torsellini , (BM)

Cara Kane, SRC
William Lee, SRC
Owen Lloyd-Jones, SRC
Joely Menzel, SRC
Rory Muldowney, SRC
Ned Panlilio, SRC
Nate Schembri, SRC

6. LOCATION OF INCIDENT *

South Maroubra Beach

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

8. NOMINATING PERSON NAME *

Simon Torsellini

9. NOMINATING PERSON EMAIL ADDRESS *

lifesaving@southmaroubrasurfclub.com.au

10. NOMINATING PERSON CONTACT NUMBER *

0414375508

11. NOMINATING PERSON CLUB/ORGANISATION *

South Maroubra SLSC Patrol 12

12. OVERVIEW OF THE INCIDENT *

Nomination for Rescue of the Month – South Maroubra Surf Club – Mass Rescue

Date of Rescue: 27th January (Australia Day Public Holiday)

Location: South Maroubra Beach

Conditions:

Weather: Fine

Winds: NE Moderate Winds (11 to 16 knots)

Surf: Spilling waves between 0.5 - 1.5 meters

Sea State: Rough seas with multiple rips along the beach

Tide: Low tide at 2:25 PM

Additional Challenges: Lifesavers provided over 320 blue bottle first aids throughout the day.

Visibility: Good, but at times challenging because of the number of people in water and on the beach.

Beach Activity:

Only one set of swimming flags was placed on the beach, approximately 100 meters wide, 150 meters south of the surfclub.

The beach was extremely busy throughout the day, with over 250 people in the water and crowds of up to 1000 people on the beach.

Lifesavers provided over 320 blue bottle first aids throughout the day.

Performed over 900 preventative actions

Description of the Rescue:

At approximately 3:10 PM, a large wave came through the flagged swim area. This wave was powerful enough to cause a large number of swimmers to lose their footing on the sandbank within the flags and get washed out into the rip on the southern side of the flagged area.

Patrol 12 immediately dispatched its IRB, along with 4 board paddlers, 3 tube rescue swimmers, including 2 council lifeguards on boards, 1 tube rescue swimmer, and the Council RWC. Both the lifesavers and council lifeguards did an amazing job rescuing the swimmers and returning them to shore, where they were treated by the remaining patrolling members. One patient required oxygen after being pushed consistently under water while others panicked. 2 more patients were monitored for over an hour before being released by the patrol. This mass rescue resulted in 21 people being saved.

Due to the rapidly deteriorating conditions, and further rescues being performed, the evacuation alarm was sounded. The conditions had changed so dramatically within 15 minutes that it was necessary to get all swimmers out of the water to reassess the situation with the patrol and the Council Supervisor.

The decision was made to close the beach for approximately 45 minutes while conditions were reassessed. Later, the decision was made to close the beach for the remainder of the day. Despite the closure, the lifesavers continued to patrol the beach, rescuing another 4 swimmers and performing several preventative actions.

Outcome: All swimmers were successfully rescued without injury. The swift and efficient response of the South Maroubra Surf Club patrol team 12 and council Lifeguards not only ensured the safety of those directly involved but also maintained calm and order among the large crowd on the beach.

Conclusion: The actions of the South Maroubra Surf Club patrol team 12 on the 27th of January exemplify the highest standards of surf lifesaving. Their courage, skill, and teamwork in the face of challenging conditions make them deserving recipients of the Rescue of the Month award.

Patrol 12 - James Parker Patrol Team Members.

Simon Torsellini, (PC)

Ashleigh Breden, (PC)

Matthew Evans (VC)

Kirsten Newrick (IRBD)

Simon McCartney (IRBC)

Lisa Morgan, (ART)

Andrew McCabe (BM)

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Joely Menzel, SRC

Rory Muldowney, SRC

Ned Panlilio, SRC

Nate Schembri, SRC

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? *

- IRB Launching and Rescue Techniques used as per sop
- Board Skills - surf negotiation , Rescue Techniques, patient pickup and return to shore.
- Tube Rescuer - Tubes were places correctly around swimmers, patient pickups followed SOP.
- First aid techniques used from BM / First Aid and ARTC course.
- Beach Management / incident management by 2 PC's.

Note: due to the difficult conditions, and weed in the area. The IRB and Council RWC could not get close to the Patients in the Water, some patients were transported to the IRB and RWC's. While patients were in the water, we used some Boards as floatation, as we selected appropriated devices to transport them back to the beach whether that be RWC , IRB, Board or Tube.

During Patrol captains start of patrol Briefing, Skills sets were identified, and roles were assigned.

ie : Board paddler, swimmer / tube rescuer / FA / IRB Handlers for Launch and Retrieval.

All equipment checked at the start of Patrol as per SOP's and Club procedures, each lifesaver checked their equipment based on their role. ie Board paddlers check boards and position.

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? *

- All Procedures were followed with all equipment used ie: IRB, Boards and Tube.
- They we constantly monitored by the PC, second PC managed returning Patients, and Assessing their condition, while remain lifesavers provided first aid.
- Unfortunately radio comms was not good on the day, as during the incident we were not able to speak to surfcom as too many clubs were using channel 3 for radio checks and other requests. Surfcom was not able to hear us.

Incident Debrief with Patrol 12 was carried out after patrol had finished for the day. Teams Reviewed all aspects of the incident, and provided feedback which have been table in the clubs Lifesaving committee's meeting and BOM.

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 *

The media did cover the incident, no Member of club was approached for statement. The Covered the story as a shark sighting. The clubs Facebook page covered it, updated by the president.