

JANUARY: Taylors Mistake SLSC



RESCUE OF THE MONTH

RECOGNISING OUTSTANDING RESCUES

NATIONAL WINNER

In it for life

Date: January 18, 2018

Location: Taylors Mistake Beach & Scarborough Heads

Lifeguards involved: Naomi Darvill, Luke Smith, Gareth Evans, Georgia Stroud, Taylor Cook, Craig Jamieson, Tisha Jamieson-Bradley, William Jamieson, Mitchell Cox, Tamsin Mills, Tirina Goldsmith, Zach Goldsmith, Megan Rossiter, Eve Weston, Amy Hartwell, Brianna Cox, Brooke Goldsmith, Agatha Weston, Jacob Clements.

On Thursday January 18, Taylors Mistake Beach was heavily populated with people on holiday. The temperature was hot and the surf was large with lots of rips and currents moving through.

The beach was manned by four paid Regional Lifeguards and there were various off-duty lifeguards, rookies and their parents on the beach.

Lifeguards had already moved the flags numerous times due to the conditions and the number of swimmers in the water.

As the tide turned shortly after 1pm, a flash rip was created taking two groups of swimmers on the western side of the flags out beyond their depth. Four people were in immediate danger with another group struggling to return to shallow water. Overall, it appeared that around 12-17 swimmers were in need of assistance.

A lone swimmer, doing water yoga at the same time, had drifted 400 metres offshore requiring board rescue and IRB pickup.

All four Regional Lifeguards entered the water as the Patrol Captain dropped the flags and closed the swimming area while the off-duty lifeguards provided assistance.

Two boards, 11 rescue tubes and an IRB were in the water at that time. IRB pickups were challenging due to the wave height, number of persons in the water and the inability of some of the swimmers to get into the IRB due to panic and exhaustion.

Ultimately, all of the swimmers were returned to shore with two requiring intervention from the First Response and ambulance along with further monitoring for secondary drowning.

Due to the extent of the rescue, the off-duty lifeguards manned the beach and flags so that the Regional Lifeguards could regroup and complete the paperwork and a full debrief.

Members of the public applauded the rescue, commented on the efficiency of the lifeguards' intervention and also paid a great deal more attention to the afternoon's designated swimming area.

If it wasn't for the quick response and teamwork from the club members on site that day, it is likely there could have been multiple drownings.