



RESCUE OF THE MONTH



CLUB: Warrington Surf Life Saving Club

SURF LIFEGUARDS: Ken McHoull, Gerard McHoull, Paul Gager

Surf Lifeguards at Warrington Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC) had just finished conducting a first aid on the beach when a member of the public alerted them to several people attempting to cross a section of Blueskin Bay from an island in the middle.

It was mid-March and the weather was a brisk 14 degrees. The section of water that the group of nine people was attempting to cross contained a 4m-deep channel. Surf Lifeguards could see members of the group using kayaks and stand up paddle boards to transport their packs, wading alongside them as they moved closer to the deep water channel.

Strong winds were making it difficult for the group to maintain control of the vessels and, with an outgoing tide, they were quickly becoming tired.

The Warrington SLSC Surf Lifeguards deployed an inflatable rescue boat (IRB) and assisted one adult and eight children across the channel and back to dry ground.

Blueskin Bay is connected to Warrington Beach via an estuary at the south and is largely hidden from Surf Lifeguards' view while on patrol.

It was lucky that a member of the public spotted the group in trouble and alerted Surf Lifeguards, who in turn responded quickly and avoided an almost inevitable disaster.