



# RESCUE OF THE MONTH



**Club:** Sumner Surf Life Saving Club

**Location:** Scarborough Beach – clocktower rip

**Date:** Saturday 12th November 2022

**Lifeguards Involved:** Keke Mote (PC), Skye Atkins (VPC), Blake Hickford, Tom Denman, Caitlin Baker, Isaak O'Brien, Lewis Elliot, Lochie Ellison, Kate Suter, Neva Pedersen, Drew Castles, Lily Tonascia, Harry Taylor, Jack Simmons, Wayne Simmons, Kaitlyn Tolley, Annabelle Sewell, Jett Coutts, Carl Tresfield, Noah Castles, Kate Presswood and Noah Fanene

On November 12th 2022 at 12:30pm, there were large surf conditions (over 2.5m), an out-going tide, offshore winds and it was a hot sunny day. Many surfers were on the Scarborough side of Sumner Beach, utilizing the clocktower rip to get into the surf.

At approximately 12:30pm, off-duty Surf Lifeguard Wayne Simmons spotted 3-4 surfers struggling to get back into shore, as they were stuck in the rip. He quickly called the Surf Lifeguards at Sumner Beach, who radioed three inflatable rescue boats (IRBs) who happened to be coming back in from a rock rescue course at Taylors Mistake. Blake Hickford and Kate Suter responded in one IRB, heading to the rip and coordinating with Simmons to spot the surfers in trouble. They rescued four surfers while the other two IRBs returned to Sumner Beach to drop off the rock rescue course candidates.

As Hickford and Suter returned the surfers to shore, more were caught in the rip and a second IRB, crewed by Lewis Elliot and Lochie Ellison, was called in to assist. At the club, PC Meke Mote coordinated the rescues and documented everything, with assistance from VPC Skye Atkins and lifeguard Drew Castles. The Sumner Taylors SAR squad was activated by Keke through SurfCom to bring in more lifeguards so IRB crews could take breaks and recover. IRB crews of Tom Denman, Skye Atkins, Caitlin Baker, Isaak O'Brien and Neva Pedersen rotated throughout the day, rescuing multiple surfers.

Coastguard Sumner Lifeboat was also brought in to assist with the response and they attended with a jetski and a boat. A coordination centre was set up, where Sumner lifeguards and Coastguard members set up a communications plan and worked together to coordinate rescues and perform preventative actions.

As the surfer rescues were occurring, a rescue occurred at Sumner Beach of a young child who was suddenly swept off his feet and fell into a hole out of his depth. Surf Lifeguards Annabelle Sewell, Kaitlynn Tolley, Carl Tresfield, Noah Castles and Jack Simmons successfully responded to this incident.

At 3.30pm, a missing person was reported, last seen in the water on at the opposite end of Scarborough Beach on the other side of the estuary mouth. A third Sumner IRB was dispatched and after an initial search, the person was located on land, safe and well.

Four IRBs were utilised during this incident alongside Coastguard equipment. Twenty one lifeguards were involved on patrol, in IRBs or coordinating the response. This was an impressive collaboration over four hours, with two organisations working together to safely return all surfers back to shore, while Surf Lifeguards also completed their scheduled patrol at Sumner Beach.

*In it for life*