

# EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM

# 13SURF *SUMMER*

# UPDATE



Bondi January 22, 2011



## **587 RESPONSES & 339 RESCUES THROUGH 13SURF SINCE JANUARY 2008**

### **RECENT INCIDENT SNAPSHOTS**

#### **11/02/2011: Sawtell (North Coast)**

A man and his dog were caught in a rip swimming outside of patrol hours. A 15 year old boy on his bodyboard went to their aid and managed to guide them onto a sand bank. Unfortunately the 15 year old boy could not make it back to shore and the Police activate 13SURF. The State Duty Officer notified the Coffs Harbour Lifeguard Service and their quick response resulted in the off duty lifeguards rescuing the 15 year old boy. The patient was treated for oxygen.

#### **30/01/2011: Catherine Hill Bay (Hunter)**

4 teenagers have been washed off rocks while walking around the northern end of Catherine Hill Bay. The Police activate 13SURF who task nearby lifesavers from Catherine Hill Bay SLSC, who manage to rescue all patients in the IRB.

#### **29/01/2011: Grants Head (Mid North Coast)**

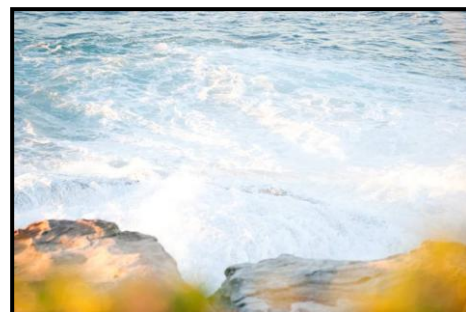
A rock fisherman has fallen in the water in rough conditions and in fading light. His mate manages to throw an angel ring to him for floatation. The Police activate 13SURF and an emergency team from Wauchope Bonny Hills SLSC respond. They drive the IRB around the headland 2.5km to find the patient still in the water struggling. He was rescued and taken back to land.

#### **16/01/2011: North Wollongong (Illawarra)**

4 people are stuck in a rip at North Wollongong after patrol hours. The Police activate 13SURF and local Duty Officers and lifesavers respond and rescue the 4 patients with the assistance of local surfers.



Anglers at rock pools in Randwick (before shot)



After shot

**PTO.....**

**Did you know** the summer months saw 9 coastal drowning incidents?

**23/12/2010: Puckey's Beach**

Gender/Age: Male 30yrs

How: Rip Current

Ethnicity: Italian

**04/01/2011: Sandy Beach**

Gender/Age: Female 21yrs

How: Rip Current

Tourist from China

**21/01/2011: Stanwell Park**

Gender/Age: Male 63 yrs

How: Rip Current

Ethnicity: Caucasian

**22/01/2011: Shelley Beach, Port Macquarie**

Gender/Age: Male 22yrs

How: Rip Current

Ethnicity: Chinese

**25/01/2011: Maroubra**

Gender/Age: Female 28yrs

How: Rip Current

Ethnicity: Indian

**28/01/2011: Fingal**

Gender/Age: Male 73yrs

How: Rip Current

Tourist from Germany

**01/02/2011: South Maroubra**

Gender/Age: Male 20yrs

How: Rip Current

Ethnicity: Lebanese

**18/02/2011: Broulee**

Gender/Age: Female 64yrs

How: Rip Current

Ethnicity: Caucasian

**28/02/2011: Shelley Beach, Port Macquarie**

Gender/Age: Male 53yrs

How: Rip Current

Ethnicity: Caucasian



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## Maroubra Search & Rescue: 25/01/11 – 26/01/11

*Recount of details by Lifesaver Tamara Murray, Maroubra SLSC (Emergency Callout Member)*

On the night of January 25<sup>th</sup> 2011 came the shocking news that a female swimmer was missing/presumed drowned off Maroubra. The 13SURF call came through at approximately 2030hrs and the search commenced almost immediately with local Surf Lifesavers, Surf Rescue Duty Officers, Council Lifeguards, the Offshore Rescue Boat, Polair, CHC and the Water Police responding. The search continued into the night and without locating the missing swimmer the search was postponed, due to commence the following morning.

A team of over 20 lifesavers from Maroubra Surf Life Saving Club attended the briefing at 0530hrs given by George Shales (Head Sydney SLS Duty Officer) and the Police.

By 0620hrs there were four IRB's from Maroubra and South Maroubra SLSC's, the Council Lifeguard Jet Ski, Surf Life Saving's (RWC) 'Support Ski 3' and the Offshore 3 Rescue Boat in the water conducting grid searches, while the remaining members paired off and worked with the Police along the promenade and at all entry points to the beach to keep crowds away.

At approx 0750hrs one of the South Maroubra IRB's located the patient. Immediately the Duty Officers, Police Sergeant, and Council Lifeguards rushed to the location. The crew in the water had brought the patient back to shore on the Council's Jet Ski sled where she was then placed on the sand and covered until the Police gave the all clear to move the patient to higher ground and out of sight from the public. Duty Officer George Shales then led the critical incident debrief and made sure everyone was offered counselling services if needed.

All parties involved in the search, regardless of who they represent worked alongside each other effectively and everyone was 'on the same page' working to a common goal.



### Rip Current Awareness Day

Beachgoers were given a valuable surf safety lesson on Sunday February 6 2011, when rip current dye releases were held at 27 Sydney beaches as part of Surf Life Saving and the University of New South Wales' first 'Rip Current Awareness Day'.

Since July 2010 rip currents have accounted for 70% of drowning incidents in NSW and it is estimated that rip currents account for 80% of rescues.

(Pictures Right: Bondi & Manly)

