

# Emergency Response System (13SURF)

## UPDATE

Summer 2011/2012

Christmas / New Year Special



After a wet start to December, NSW Surf Lifesavers and Lifeguards have experienced one of the busiest Christmas / New Year period's in recent memory.

## LARGE SWELLS IMPACT NSW

A Dangerous Surf Warning released by SLSNSW on the 23rd of December warned of large swells of up to 3m which impacted the NSW Coastline from Christmas Eve to the Boxing Day Public Holiday. This swell made the job for Lifesavers and Lifeguards more challenging.

## OVERALL STATISTICS

(24 Dec 2011 - 2 Jan 2012)

- Rescues: 1,332
- First Aid Cases: 539
- Preventions: 34,065
- Attendance: 3.5 million
- 13SURF Callouts: 52

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**STATE OPERATIONS CENTRE SMEAC BRIEF**

**Dangerous Surf Advisory: General Warning**  
24 December – 27 December, 2012  
Tweed Heads (FNC) – Port Macquarie (MNC)

Issued By:

- SLS State & Branch Duty Officers, SLS Club C
- Lifeguard Service Supervisors
- NSW Police Force
- Ambulance Service of NSW
- Helicopter Rescue Services

SLSNSW State Operations Centre  
Emergency Number: 13SURF (24/7), Non-emergency: [surfcom@surflifesaving.com.au](mailto:surfcom@surflifesaving.com.au)

### Big swell closes many NSW beaches

Alen Delic  
December 27, 2011

More than half of Sydney's beaches remain closed today, as a monster swell generated by ex-tropical cyclone Fina continues to pound the east coast.

Surf Lifesaving New South Wales is advising beach-goers to head to major patrolled beaches such as Bondi and to stay away from closed and unpatrolled beaches.

As at 1000hrs 22/12/11:

Mid-range forecasts from the BOM indicate a large NE/E swell which will prevail over the Christmas period with moderate waves that may exceed 3 metres, with hazardous conditions at all Sydney Region is forecast to be affected by Dangerous

### MISSION

- Relevant on-duty lifesaving/lifeguarding
- Emergency Services (NSW Police) identification/tasking through

# DROWNING INCIDENTS

Unfortunately there were 4 Coastal Drowning Incidents over the Christmas & New Year period. Lifesavers, Lifeguards and members of the public who responded should be commended for their brave actions in retrieving and trying to revive the patients.

## Incident 1: Dolphin Point, Ulladulla

Date: 24/12/2011

Patient: 30yrs - male

Time: 1630 hours

Activity: Swimming

Cause: Rip current

## Incident 2: Manly Beach, Sydney

Date: 29/12/2011

Patient: 30yrs - male

Time: 2005 hours

Activity: Swimming

Cause: Unknown - rip current or medical condition

## Incident 3: Racecourse Beach, Bawley Point

Date: 30/12/2011

Patient: 50yrs - male

Time: 0730 hours

Activity: Swimming

Cause: Rip current

## Incident 4: Shellharbour North

Date: 31/12/2011

Patient: 25yrs - male (Chinese national)

Time: 1815 hours

Activity: Bodyboarding

Cause: Rip current / large surf

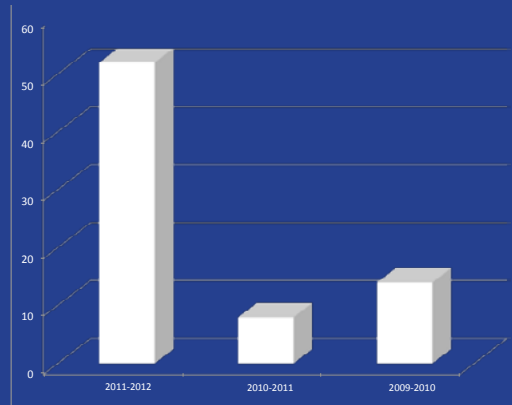
*These drowning incidents highlight the importance of swimming at patrolled beaches, during patrol hours and swimming between the red and yellow flags.*



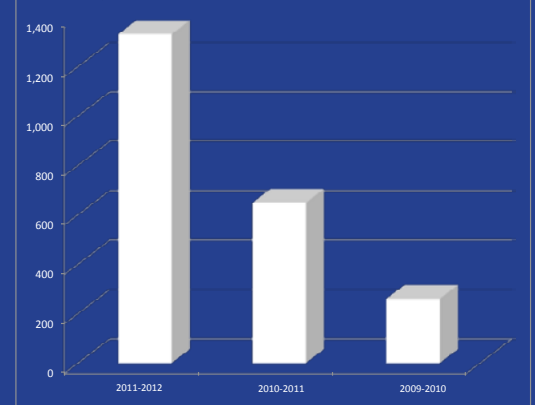
# COMPARISON GRAPHS

From 24 Dec 2011 - 2 Jan 2012

## 13SURF CALLOUTS



## SLS RESCUE COMPARISON



## 13SURF SUMMARY

The Emergency Response System (13SURF) was the busiest it has ever been since its inception in January 2008. Lifesavers and Lifeguards were tasked to respond to 52 '13SURF Callouts' from Police over the ten day period.



## RECENT 13SURF CALLOUTS

### 28/12/2011

A man rockfishing at Kendall's Beach in Kiama has fallen into the water and was spotted by the public face-down. A 13SURF call from Police alerts the State Operations Centre who tasked local Lifesavers to assist Police and Ambulance. All resources worked well together in the retrieval and successful resuscitation of the male.

### 29/12/2011

3 children were spotted in distress at an unpatrolled beach, roughly 5km away from Moruya Main Beach. A 13SURF call from Police alerts the State Operations Centre to activate the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter (Moruya) and the Club callout team from Moruya SLSC. The first patient was winched to safety by the Helicopter, the second patient was rescued by the IRB and the third was able to make it back to shore.

### 31/12/2011

3 persons were caught in a rip at unpatrolled Bluey's Beach, 20 minutes South of Forster. A 13SURF call from Police alerts the State Operations Centre to activate Pacific Palms SLSC. Members responded with an IRB and RWC and were able to successfully rescue the 3 patients.



## MERITORIOUS AWARDS

Thousands of lives are saved by Lifesavers and Lifeguards each year as part of normal operations. Now and then however, an incident will occur that will present an exceptional challenge and require an equally exceptional response. Rescues such as these deserve recognition over and above normal duty expectations.

The SLSA Meritorious Awards Program has been running for over 100 years has seen many extraordinary responses during this time.

### Meritorious Award Structure

- Silver Medallion
- Bronze Medallion
- Certificate of Merit
- Commendation

Lifesavers, Lifeguards and Emergency Service personnel are encouraged to apply for these awards.

To apply visit: [www.surflifesaving.com.au/lifesaving-resources/w1/i1005782/](http://www.surflifesaving.com.au/lifesaving-resources/w1/i1005782/) and download the document 'Meritorious Awards Information Kit' or email Luke Stigter, [Istigter@surflifesaving.com.au](mailto:Istigter@surflifesaving.com.au) for a copy.



## LIFESAVERS RESCUE DROWNING FAMILY AT MORUYA

Volunteer lifesavers from Moruya and Broulee SLSC saved three drowning family members at 2.30pm on Tuesday 27 December, 2011. The family were paddling three kayaks in the Moruya River mouth when the 10 year old boy was struck by a large wave and thrown into the water. A short time later his 8 year old sister was also thrown into the water and their 40 year old father also lost control of his craft. All 3 patients were dragged 400 metres out to sea.

The Westpac Life Saver Helicopter responded and winched the 8 year old out of the water. Moruya lifesavers managed to retrieve the 40 year old father from the water however the 10 year old boy remained missing. An air and sea search continued until the Broulee Rescue Water Craft (jetski) located the boy on a nearby sand bank.

All three patients were treated by Ambulance Officers at the scene for shock and hypothermia.



Location shot: Moruya



## TWO SUCCESSFUL RESUSCITATIONS, DIFFERENT LOCATIONS, SAME TIME

Surf Lifesavers successfully resuscitated a thirty year old male after he and two others were rescued near the rocks at Corrimal Beach north of Wollongong on New Year 's Day. In a separate incident Surf Lifesavers were kept busy at Copacabana where a young female surfer was dragged to the beach unconscious by her friends and resuscitated by Surf Lifesavers. This was an outstanding effort by all involved.



Location shot: Corrimal

# 24/7 CONTACT

For Emergency Services Only:

## 13 SURF (13 7873)

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24/7 SURF RESCUE  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

# 13SURF

CALL 13 7873

**EMERGENCY TASKING/NOTIFICATION OF:**

- Lifesavers and Lifeguards
- Sydney Helicopter Rescue
- Offshore/Jet Rescue Boats
- Inflatable Rescue Boats
- Search and Rescue Duty Officers
- Provision of SLSC Facilities
- Rescue Water Craft (Jet Ski's)
- Tsunami/ Flood Support