

RESCUE OF THE MONTH

January 2011

Moruya SLSC



Lifesaver Involved: Norm Lenehan

On the 31st January 2011, off duty lifesaver Norm Lenehan was surfing near the Tuross Lake Entrance with family members when he noticed six people in distress. There was a four metre swell running and the tide had begun to change and head out to the lake entrance at a fast rate making the conditions extremely dangerous.

A group of teenagers were unable to return to shore due to the changing tide. Norm and his nephew upon seeing the teenagers immediately went over to assist.

A group of body boarders were helping the teenagers stay afloat. Norm and his nephew attempted to use their surfboards to make several trips in and out of the break to assist all the teenagers back to shore. This was made even more difficult by a large and deep channel which was preventing the teenagers from standing until near the water's edge.

The Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter, IRB's from Moruya and Broulee, the Broulee Rescue Watercraft and the Tuross Marine Rescue were dispatched to the scene to assist.

The Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter was on the scene within minutes and crewman Harley Dengate was winched down to treat a 19 year old man who was in a serious condition after entering the surf to go to the assistance of a 14 year old swimmer and had suffered a number of injuries in the process. The man was treated by paramedics for back, neck and respiratory problems.

All six patients were eventually brought safely back to shore thanks to Norm's efforts.

Norm's brave actions this day prevented a number of tragedies from occurring.

Tony Rettke
President

Mark McLeay
Director of Lifesaving