

RESCUE OF THE MONTH.

SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES



FEBRUARY 2024

Service: ALS Northern Beaches Lifeguards

Lifesavers and Lifeguards involved: Mark McManus

At around 6.30pm on Tuesday 13 February, ALS lifeguard, Mark McManus was using the Warriewood SLSC gym facilities when he heard calls for help coming from the water.

Mark was off duty at the time, having finished his patrol earlier in the afternoon, however he acted quickly to observe the rip current at the southern end of the beach where a pair of swimmers were being swept out and around the headland.

He quickly carried out a risk assessment, and understood that activating any power craft would result in too much time lost, but was confident in his ability to perform the rescue without it.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joel Wiseman'.

Joel Wiseman
Director of Lifesaving
Surf Life Saving NSW

Grabbing the rescue board, mounted to the wall near the café, Mark ran down the cliff and entered the water. Initially he lost sight of the two swimmers as they drifted further south towards the Warriewood Blowhole, but a member of the public directed him from the headland and helped to locate them.

Contending with a 4–5-foot NE swell, Mark first allowed the pair to catch their breath and gather themselves before paddling some 200m further out to sea and a few hundred metres north, avoiding the worst of the conditions, and negotiated a few tricky waves on his way in to shore where paramedics were waiting to attend to the swimmers.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Peter Agnew'.

Peter Agnew
President
Surf Life Saving NSW