



## Lifesavers kept busy in huge seas

Rae Wilson | 3rd January 2012 2:00 AM

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WILD seas over Christmas resulted in plenty of dramatic rescues across the Coast but the guardians of our beaches also helped a stranded dolphin, injured skaters and with boating incidents.

On Christmas Day, lifesavers had to rescue an underwater surf photographer at Mooloolaba and then they themselves needed to be rescued by helicopter after trying to help a kite surfer at Coolum.

Surf Life Saving Queensland's Sunshine Coast duty officer David McLean said lifesavers were kept busy with a wide range of call-outs this festive season.

"We have to go to everything, all sorts of weird and wonderful things," Mr McLean said.

"We've had an unusually large number of boat callouts this time.

"Normally the Coastguard handles them but we've had several calls to help out.

"We had a boat overturned at the Caloundra bar, a jet-ski rolled with three people at Mooloolaba and we had a tinnie at Twin Waters near the Maroochy River mouth.

"We also found a tinnie up at Double Island Point. It turned out it was stolen or cut away at Moreton.

"In the shipping channel we had a catamaran upturned which got into difficulty a few days earlier. A person was rescued off it off Moreton Island and then it floated up to here.

"We had a boat at Pumicestone Passage on Christmas Day where two youths were rescued."

Mr McLean said lifesavers also responded to several kite surfing calls, including a near drowning at the Caloundra bar when a man became tangled in his kite.

"We've had a lot of broken bones. A girl had a bad leg fracture down at the Maroochy River jet-ski incident. We've also had broken wrists and other incidents with skateboarders at Alexandra Headland and Coolum. Our guys rush to do first aid until the ambulance gets there.

"On the 27th we got an urgent call from police that a plane had gone into the ocean at Dicky Beach so we had the helicopter out.

"That sparked a lot of concern but it turned out the plane had made an emergency landing at Currimundi.

"We had a syringe handed in at Maroola beach to dispose of in a sharps container and we had a woman approached by a 20-year-old deviant near SurfAir.

"People on a pushbike came to her aid and we took a description.

"Our crews respond to all manner of calls, not just swimmers."



Lifesavers Lachlan Downes (front) and Matt Orsborn.

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