



Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopters MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, 7th May 2014

BOATIES RESCUED AFTER YACHT RUNS AGROUND

A SAILOR has been winched to safety this afternoon after his yacht ran aground off the Central Coast this afternoon.

Shortly after 1.00 pm, witnesses reported that a yacht had run aground on a sandbar and was floundering a short distance off Ettalong Beach inside Broken Bay. A number of people were reported to be on board the yacht.

Large swell and dangerous conditions are reported through the region.

Water Police attempted to tow the 30 foot sailing vessel off the sand bank but the heavy seas and the size of the vessel made this impossible.

A member of the public had also paddled a surfboard out to the yacht.

An elderly man, sailing on the yacht, grabbed two lifejackets and jumped overboard. He attempted to swim over to the surfer but began to struggle and got into trouble in the dangerous conditions.

A Westpac Life Saver helicopter crewman was winched down into the water and rescued the man. He was flown to a nearby beach where he was checked by the Rescue Crew Officer and ambulance paramedics.

Three other people on board jumped into the water and swam to shore, monitored by the police boat and the helicopter crew.

A fifth sailor had decided to remain with the boat but he later jumped into the water. He began to struggle in the conditions and the helicopter crewman who was still on shore stabilizing the first man, swam out and assisted him to shore.

Water Police are still on the scene attempting to salvage the boat.

- ends -

For more information, contact:

STEPHEN LEAHY
Chief Executive Officer
Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopters
Mob: 0406 353 266
Ph: (02) 9311 3499

twitter 
@lifesaverhelo

Proud partners of the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter

