



Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopters MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, 24th November 2015

MISSING KAYAKER LOCATED ON MURRAY RIVER AFTER TWO DAY SEARCH

A KAYAKER MISSING on the NSW Victorian border for two days has been located safe and well.

The 41 year old man was kayaking on the Murray River at Tom Groggin in the Kosciuszko National Park around 1.00pm on Sunday and was due at Grassy Flats around 3.00pm. When he failed to arrive, he was reported missing to NSW Police.

Sydney's Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter searched the Murray River all day yesterday, locating the man's kayak and paddle about six kilometres downstream from Tom Groggin. A Rescue Crew Officer was winched into the river and checked the kayak but there was no sign of the man.

"The search continued using a Thales Thermal Imaging Camera but to no avail," said Westpac Life Saver helicopter CEO, Stephen Leahy.

Following a briefing of rescue teams this morning, the Westpac Life Saver Helicopter boarded a swiftwater rescue team from Victoria Police and flew to the site where the kayak was located yesterday.

"Upon arrival, the helicopter crew sighted the missing man on the banks of the river. Our Rescue Crew Officer was winched onto the bank, confirmed the missing man's identity and that he was in a satisfactory condition," said Mr Leahy.

"The missing man has advised that he fell out of his kayak on Sunday afternoon, bumping his head but otherwise he was okay. He then climbed a nearby ridge to get his bearings."

He stayed at the location yesterday and heard the helicopter on a number of occasions and sighted it at least twice. He decided to return to the original accident site late yesterday and waited until the helicopter returned this morning."

"The man did everything right," said Mr Leahy. "He was wearing a lifejacket and a helmet and he has a good supply of water. When he realized there was a search underway, he returned to the original accident site and stayed there."

If there was any advice we could provide, we would suggest kayakers should also carry a personal distress beacon. This will ensure your rescue is rapid," Mr Leahy said.

- ends -

For more information, contact:

STEPHEN LEAHY
Chief Executive Officer
Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopters
Mob: 0406 353 266
Ph: (02) 9694 3100

twitter 
@lifesaverhelo

Proud partners of the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter

 **estpac**



THALES