



Circular

Title: Rescue of the Month
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Department: Coastal Safety
Audience: Clubs, Support operation services, State & Territory centres, Australian Lifeguard Services
Summary: lifesaving personnel national recognition program

Lifesavers and Lifeguards provide an essential service to communities throughout Australia. Many exceptional rescues and first aids performed each year are over and above normal duties and showcase excellence in lifesaving training, skills and procedures.

The SLSA board endorsed the implementation of a *National Rescue of the Month* (ROM) commencing in December 2013. The program expands similar successful recognition programs currently being run by SLSNSW and SLSQ.

The 'Rescue of the Month' aims to recognise excellence in lifesaving and service delivery, measured against industry best practice and operating procedures. It is not to encourage unnecessary risk, neglect safety considerations or Standard Operating Procedures.

The program is designed to:

1. Increase the recognition and promotion of lifesavers, SLS clubs, ALS lifeguards and support operations services after an incident.
2. Increase the number of worthy Meritorious Awards

State/Territory centres will award a ROM. These monthly winners will automatically become nominated for the National Rescue of the Month. The National ROM will be awarded to recipients at a quarterly ceremony at Parliament House in Canberra.

The ROM is a **separate** recognition program to the SLSA Meritorious Awards. Members, Clubs and Support Operations Services and Australian Lifeguard Services may nominate to both programs separately using the relevant nomination form.

Nomination Process

Clubs, Australian Lifeguard Service and support operations services are to nominate using the Rescue of the Month nomination form available on the SLS website or member portal.

Clubs, Australian Lifeguard Service and support operations services are to send the completed nomination form to their Branch/Region or State/Territory centre.

All nominated rescues/incidents must be performed inside the designated time period i.e. a rescue/incident that occurs in November is only eligible for the November award etc. (see nomination schedule for due dates).



There are five (5) key areas assessed as part of the Judging Criteria:

Criteria	Weight
1. Application of Skills and Resource Utilisation	35%
2. Procedures Followed	25%
3. Environmental Conditions	20%
4. Potential Outcome	15%
5. Media Capture / Communication	5%

These criteria will be used to determine Branch, State/Territory and National Rescue of the Month winners



NOMINATION SCHEDULE							
PERIOD	NOMINATION PERIOD ENDS	BRANCH ROM	STATE/TERRITORY ROM		NATIONAL ROM		
		Nominations Close (To Branch or ALS Manager)	Nominations Close (To State)	State Winner Announced	Nominations Close (To SLSA)	Winner Announced	
2015	December	31 December	8 January	15 January	22 January	22 January	29 January
2016	January	31 January	5 February	12 February	19 February	19 February	26 February
	February	29 February	4 March	11 March	18 March	18 March	29 March
	March	31 March	8 April	15 April	22 April	22 April	29 April
	April	30 April	6 May	13 May	20 May	20 May	27 May
	May/June	30 June	8 July	15 July	22 July	22 July	29 July
	July/Aug	31 August	9 September	16 September	23 September	23 September	30 September
	September	30 September	7 October	14 October	21 October	21 October	28 October
	October	31 October	4 November	11 November	18 November	18 November	25 November
	November	30 November	9 December	16 December	23 December	23 December	3 January
	December	31 December	6 January	13 January	20 January	20 January	27 January

Eligibility

- Rescues, First Aids (or other lifesaving actions) conducted during or outside of patrol hours, year round, on or off the beach.
- All nominees are to be current members of SLSA, employees of Australian Lifeguard Service or a support operation service.
- All Club nominations are to be received by the Branch/Region/State or Territory on or before the applicable closing date.
- No late correspondence will be entered into. Late nominations **will not be eligible** for the State/National Rescue of the Month, but can be recognised by the Branch or State/Territory independently or nominated to the SLSA Meritorious Awards program if appropriate.
- Branches/Regions may make only one (1) nomination to State centre per period, as per schedule.
- States/Territory may make only one (1) nomination to SLSA per period, as per schedule
- All nominations are to be received on the official 'SLSA Rescue of the Month Nomination Form'. This can be downloaded from the [SLS website](#) or [member portal](#) or obtained by contacting the SLSA or your State/Territory Office
- States/Territory reserves the right to nominate any outstanding rescue/incident in addition to any Branch/Region nomination, inside the designated time period.
- SLSA and the States/Territory reserve the right to promote details of rescues and the nominated rescuer(s) internally and externally in promotion of SLS services/clubs/members and the Rescue of the Month program.
- Nomination for the 'award' serves as agreement to the conditions as stated above.

Judging

- The State/Territory ROM judging panel/method shall be determined by the State/Territory
- The SLSA National ROM judging panel shall be the determined by the Board appointed Chair of Lifesaving
- The selection of a winner is final and there will be no correspondence entered into.

Recognition / Winners

- Clubs/Services shall be the award recipients for winning nominations
- Branch winner ROM – State/Territory & Branch branded Citation.
- State/Territory ROM – State monthly winners shall be recognised via a citation for the Club + any additional methods as determined by the State/Territory. State ROM winner is not awarded a Branch level citation.
- State/Territory – May choose to award a Rescue of the Year award, however there is no National Rescue of the Year award
- National ROM – Citation & medallion plus award ceremony in Canberra.