

Surf Life Saving NSW - Circular 3963

Title:	Rescue of the Month 2026/2027
Attention:	Clubs, Lifesaving Services (Support Operations), Australian Lifeguard Services, Australian UAV Services
Department:	Lifesaving
Date:	20/7/2026
Contact:	Laura Schuetz, Lifesaving Administration Officer lschuetz@surflifesaving.com.au

BACKGROUND

Surf Lifesavers and Lifeguards provide an essential service to communities throughout Australia, performing many exceptional rescues and providing first aid in emergency situations, which are over and above normal duties. These actions showcase excellence in lifesaving training, skills and procedures, which deserve special recognition. The 'Rescue of the Month' (ROTM) aims to recognise excellence in lifesaving and service delivery, measured against industry best practice and operating procedures. It is not to encourage unnecessary risk, or neglect safety considerations and Standard Operating Procedures.

The program is designed to:

1. Increase the recognition and promotion of lifesavers, surf clubs, lifesaving services (Support Operations) and ALS lifeguards after an incident; and
2. Increase the number of worthy Meritorious Awards.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Clubs, Lifesaving Services (Support Operations), and ALS lifeguards are to nominate using the official "Rescue of the Month Nomination Form". This can be accessed via the Surf Lifesaving NSW website or by using the link below:

[Rescue of the Month Nomination Form](#)

Selection Process

The SLSNSW judging panel/method shall be determined by SLSNSW. The panel will review all submitted applications and determine the winner. The selection of a winner is final and there will be no correspondence entered into.

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

Eligibility

- Rescues, first aids (or other lifesaving actions) conducted during or outside of patrol hours, year round, on or off the beach. These should be considered above that of "business as usual".
- All nominees are to be current members of SLISA or employees of Australian Lifeguard Service.
- All nominations are to be received on the official 'Rescue of the Month Nomination Form'. This can be accessed via the Surf Lifesaving NSW website or by using link: [Rescue of the Month Nomination Form](#)

- 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). No late correspondence will be considered.
- SLSNSW reserves the right to nominate any outstanding rescue/incident in addition to any Branch nomination, inside the designated time period.
- SLSA and SLSNSW 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 ROTM program.
- Nomination for the 'award' serves as agreement to the conditions as stated above.

Nomination Schedule

RESCUE OF THE MONTH NOMINATION SCHEDULE 2026/2027			
NOMINATION PERIOD:	ONLINE FORM TO BE SUBMITTED BY:	SLSNSW CLOSING DATE:	ROTM WINNER TO BE ANNOUNCED:
1-31 July 2026 (July)	7/08/2026	14/08/2026	28/08/2026
1-31 August 2026 (August)	4/09/2026	11/09/2026	25/09/2026
1-30 September 2026 (September)	9/10/2026	16/10/2026	30/10/2026
1-31 October 2026 (October)	6/11/2026	13/11/2026	27/11/2026
1-30 November 2026 (November)	4/12/2026	11/12/2026	25/12/2026
1-31 December 2026 (December)	8/01/2027	15/01/2027	29/01/2027
1-31 January 2027 (January)	5/02/2027	12/02/2027	26/02/2027
1-28 February 2027 (February)	5/03/2027	12/03/2027	26/03/2027
1-31 March 2027 (March)	9/04/2027	16/04/2027	30/04/2027
1-30 April 2027 (April)	7/05/2027	14/05/2027	28/05/2027
1-31 May 2027 (May)	11/06/2027	18/06/2027	2/07/2027
1-30 June 2027 (June)	9/07/2027	16/07/2027	30/07/2027

Criteria

There are five (5) key areas assessed as part of the Judging Criteria. This criteria will be used to determine the State winner:

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%

Recognition / Winners

- Citation, Certificate and Voucher will be sent to State winner.
- Certificate of Appreciation will be sent to all nominees.
- SLSNSW may choose to award a Rescue of the Year award.
- Members, Clubs, Branches, Lifesaving Services (Support Operations) and the Australian Lifeguard Service are encouraged to nominate for SLSA Meritorious Awards by completing the form located on the SLSA Members Hub.

RESCUE OF THE MONTH

