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 (ROTM) 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 ROTM. These monthly winners will automatically become nominated for the National Rescue of the Month. The National ROTM will be awarded to recipients at a quarterly ceremony at Parliament House in Canberra.

The ROTM 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:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Application of Skills and Resource Utilisation</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Procedures Followed</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Environmental Conditions</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Potential Outcome</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Media Capture / Communication</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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These criteria will be used to determine Branch, State/Territory and National Rescue of the Month winners.
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 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 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 ROTM judging panel/method shall be determined by the State/Territory.
- The SLSA National ROTM judging panel shall be 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 ROTM – State/Territory & Branch branded Citation.
- State/Territory ROTM – State monthly winners shall be recognised via a citation for the Club + any additional methods as determined by the State/Territory. State ROTM 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 ROTM – Citation & medallion plus award ceremony in Canberra.