



Club/Service Rescue of the Month Nomination Form

Please complete this nomination form for the Rescue of the Month Award and forward to your **Branch** by the closing date.

To enter, please complete the following overview of the incident and then provide specific details in the five key criteria sections.

Name of Club / Service:	Surf Rescue 30/ RWC / DO /Randwick Lifeguards
Date of Incident: 31 December 2017	Time of Incident: around 1200hrs
Full name of all Lifesaver(s) / Lifeguard(s) Involved:	Adam King, Ben Heenan with Richard Lissenden and Karl Solomonson assisting. RCO – John Restuccia), DO – Simon Torsellini, Randwick LG – Pat Falzon, Daryl Pearce, David Skene
Location of Incident:	Little Bay
Incident Number in SurfGuard:	L171217915 (incident number recorded and advised by SurfCom)

Overview of the incident / rescue (Limit 500 words):

At around 1205hrs on Sunday 31 December, whilst training in Botany Bay, Surf Rescue 30 (SR30), Branch RWC and Maroubra Lifeguards were tasked by Surfcom Sydney regarding a possible fisherman in the water off the rocks in the vicinity of Little Bay. Sea conditions were treacherous with 1.5 - 2 metre swell at Cape Banks and breaking waves along the Randwick coastal cliffs.

Karl Solomonson SR30, Driver (Maroubra SLSC); Richard Lissenden SR30, Skipper (Maroubra SLSC); and Ben Heenan, SR 30 Driver and Rescue Crew (Coogee SLSC), RWC (Adam King) proceeded to Little Bay. LifeSaver Helicopter were hovering in the vicinity of Little Bay and SurfCom confirmed that the patient had been retrieved from the water by the Randwick Lifeguard Jet Ski (approximately 5 minutes before our arrival).

Upon arrival on scene, Ben Heenan was already suited up as SR30 Rescue Crew with his PPE (wetsuit, Gath helmet and booties) and had the Oxy Viva and Defibrillator ready for dispatch. SR30 entered Little Bay and the Rescue Craft was beached alongside the patient who was unconscious. CPR was in progress being undertaken by the Randwick Lifeguard and Adam King (RWC)

Ben left SR30 and attended the patient along with Randwick Lifeguards, Support Ski 3(RWC), and the paramedics (who arrived on the scene at the same time as SR30). Karl Solomonson left the vessel to assist Ben and the Randwick Lifeguard on the Little Bay Beach, leaving Richard Lissenden on board SR30 to carry out any radio comms.

Karl Solomonson prepared the defibrillator and the pads on the patient in anticipation of defibrillation while Ben Heenan instinctively stepped in to CPR and relieved the Randwick Lifeguard (who had commenced CPR upon arrival at Little Bay Beach). Unfortunately however, the defibrillator following its assessment of the patient advised the rescuers that the patient had no shockable rhythm and for rescuers to continue with CPR. CPR continued

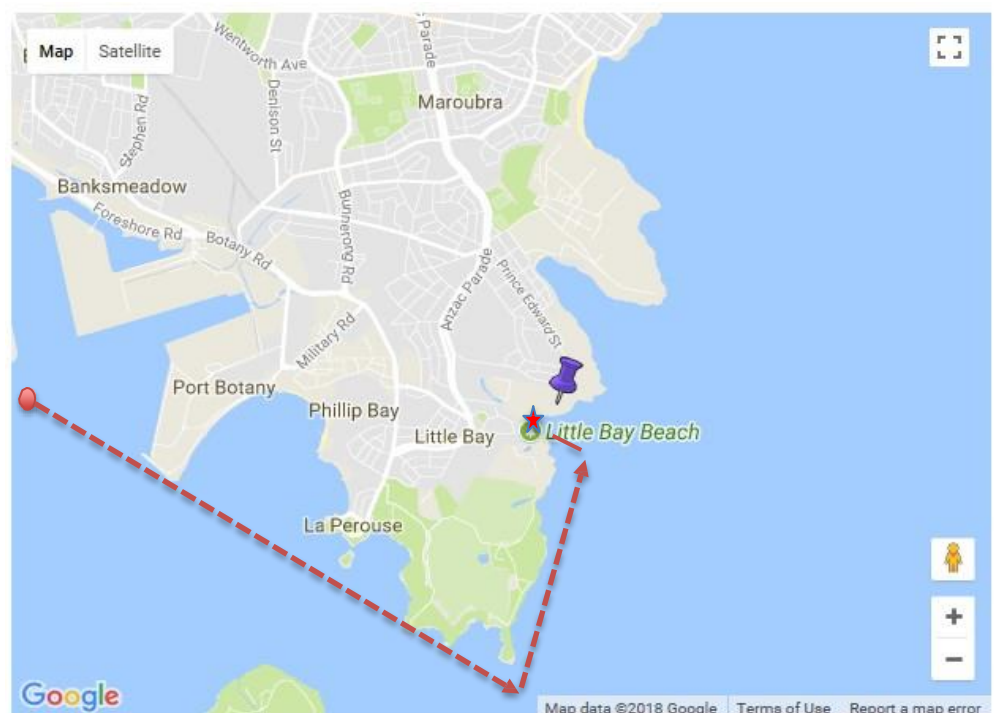
with the paramedic stepping in to relieve Ben after 2 minutes. This cycle of CPR rotation involving the Paramedic, Randwick Lifeguard, Adam King (RWC), and Ben Heenan from SR30 continued for around 15- 20 minutes until the Doctor from the Toll Ambulance Rescue Helicopter (Rescue 203) arrived, administered drugs intravenously so that the rescuers could eventually get a shockable rhythm for the defibrillator and the patient was stabilised with a pulse and assisted breathing.

The ambulance was located up on the Little Bay ridgeline and given the terrain which was not "ambulance stretcher friendly" the Rescue helicopter doctor requested use of Surf Rescue 30's stokes litter to extract the patient to the waiting ambulance. This was assembled by SR30 Crew and the patient was taken to the ambulance stretcher and the waiting ambulance which transported the critically ill patient to St George Hospital.

When the team arrived at the ambulance the Toll Rescue Helicopter Doctor thanked all services for their teamwork and advised that the patient's remarkable survival was largely due to this teamwork.

A special mention in *despatches* goes to Rescue Crewman Ben Heenan (Coogee SLSC) and Adam King (RWC) who performed CPR for around 15-20 minutes as part of the CPR Team. This was Ben's first CPR and he and the team demonstrated that when you get into a tight place (Little Bay is a remote access location) and everything goes against you (the CPR team could not get a shockable rhythm), till it seems as though you could not hang on a minute longer (CPR Team were performing CPR for over 20 minutes rotating at 2 minute intervals), the team never gave up then, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn (that the patient left with a pulse was a credit to the team's training, teamwork and underlying commitment).

Approximate course over ground of SR30 when tasked.



PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS IN BRIEF BULLET POINT FORMAT:

Section 1	APPLICATION OF SKILLS AND RESOURCE UTILISATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Were the skills used correctly and appropriately as per SOP's?</i> • <i>Did the rescue / incident require advanced technical skills?</i> • <i>Was there optimal use of skills within the available personnel?</i> • <i>Was the correct equipment utilised appropriately?</i>
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Skills and resources were applied appropriately in a complex environment without established surf lifesaving infrastructure (i.e. Little Bay) and the patient was clearly in critical condition with deep lacerations to the head and unconscious.

- The Crew was required, and did, work seamlessly with emergency services including police, paramedics, lifeguards and the Toll Rescue Helicopter doctor.
- CPR was performed for around 20 minutes using a rotating method amongst rescuers to limit fatigue. The stress levels remained high given that on several occasions neither SR30 crew, RWC, Maroubra Lifeguards, nor the paramedics, could get a shockable rhythm with the defibrillator.
- The patient had extensive head injuries to the forehead and left eye – making CPR a very difficult task.
- All SLS equipment was deployed effectively contributing to the patient being stabilised before leaving the beach.
- Each crew member worked effectively applying the SLS training and philosophies to ensure RWC and SR30 arrived at the incident scene safely and once at the scene best practice patient management was delivered.

Section 2	ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Was the incident around rocks, cliffs, or other precarious situations?</i> • <i>What was the size of the surf, temperature, time, visibility, weather, and other environmental conditions at land or sea?</i>
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- The environmental conditions at the time of the tasking were treacherous with steep 1.5 – 2 metre swells. This made accessing Little Bay in a falling-tide all the more difficult particularly as the driver needed to navigate at speed across a shallow rock reef at the entrance to Little Bay.

- At the time SR30 was tasked they were in Botany Bay and RWC at Maroubra Beach, the sea conditions were difficult with steep southerly swells running through the entrance to Botany Bay between Cape Solander and Cape Banks and large waves battering the Randwick coastline.

Section 3	PROCEDURES FOLLOWED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Was the safety of the rescuers involved appropriately assessed?</i> • <i>Was the appropriate leadership, chain of command, good scene management paperwork completed, follow ups etc?</i>
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- At the time of the tasking to the incident crew were wearing appropriate PPE. Given the facts were evolving whilst SR30 / RWC were on route to the patient the rescue crewman Ben Heenan prepared for the worst, donning a wetsuit, Gath helmet, gloves, booties, dive knife, basic dive gear and a life vest. Upon arrival on Scene SR30's oxy-viva, defibrillator and stoles litter were ready to be deployed and at various times during the rescue tasking used.
- Once tasked, everyone fell into their trained roles coolly, calmly and efficiently. There was never any sense of panic – rather a sense of urgency. On-route to the rescue the SR30 rescue crew were continually communicating with each other to provide feedback.
- During the rescue SR30 crew / RWC / DO's liaised closely with Paramedics and the treating doctor to ensure the highest standard of patient care was delivered to the critically ill patient.
- SR30 skipper liaised with SurfCom regard to on scene management until such time as the RCO and DO arrived on scene
- Both the RCO (John Restuccia) and DO (Simon Torsellini) conducted a comprehensive critical incident debrief providing valuable post-incident support to the SR30 rescue crew when we arrived back at the SR30 base at Malabar after refuelling the rescue craft.

Section 4	POTENTIAL OUTCOME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Would the outcome have been the same if the rescuers hadn't intervened?</i>
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- Most definitely yes. It is hard to envisage how the outcome would not have been different but for Surf Rescue 30's / RWC and the rescuers interventions.
- If:
 - the Randwick Lifeguard had not pulled the patient from the water; and
 - first aid and CPR had not been performed so efficiently and effectively by the team,

it is likely this patient would not have left the beach with a pulse under assisted breathing. This patient had been given the best possible opportunity of survival

- Before the final transfer into the ambulance the Rescue 203 doctor thanked the team for their team work and echoed this comment with his remark that the teamwork by all agencies involved meant that this patient had been given the best chance of life.

Section 5	MEDIA CAPTURE / COMMUNICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Were the opportunities maximised in terms of media exposure? If yes, please attach article or give brief overview of media exposure.</i>
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- There was extensive media coverage including by Channel 7, Channel 9 and the ABC as well as Facebook and Twitter and Instagram feeds.
- This provided a perfect platform for Surf Life Saving to again emphasise the importance of wearing lifejackets for not only rock fishermen but those out and about on the water over the holiday season.
- The rock fisherman was likely only found because he was wearing a lifejacket once again proving the old adage that *lifejackets float, rock fishermen don't*.
- On the following pages we have included a few examples of the many news feeds, news articles, television reports that appeared over the 24 hour news cycle.

The Sydney Morning Herald

DECEMBER 31 2017

PRINT

Fisherman in a critical condition after being swept off rocks at Sydney beach

A fisherman is in a critical condition after being swept off rocks at Little Bay in Sydney's east.

The 49-year-old man was fishing at Buchan Point when he was swept off the rocks before midday on Sunday.



A fisherman is in a critical condition after being swept off rocks at Little Bay. *Photo: SEVEN NEWS*

Emergency services found the man, who was wearing a lifejacket, about 250 metres from shore.

He was taken to St George Hospital in a critical condition.

Surf Life Saving NSW chief executive officer Steven Pearce praised the quick actions of the first responders.

"Our thoughts are with the man's family and friends at this time but it was very pleasing to see how well all the agencies worked together in a small time frame to not only locate the man, but to give him such professional treatment, and the best possible chance of survival," Mr Pearce said in a statement on Sunday.

It comes just days after a [man died when a boat capsized further south, at Cape Solander](#).

THE Daily Telegraph

Fisherman critical after being swept of rocks at Little Bay

The Daily Telegraph

December 31, 2017 12:53pm



A ROCK fisherman is fighting for life after being pulled into the water near Little Bay in Sydney's south east.

The fisherman went into cardiac arrest after being rescued by emergency services who are currently trying to extract him. Paramedics performed CPR at the scene.

A helicopter has been called to assist.



See below 7 news footage

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/video/watch/38452201/fisherman-critical-after-being-swept-from-the-rocks/>



See below Twitter feed. 9 News also ran a lead story on the 6pm news about the incident.



 **Nine News Sydney** 
@9NewsSyd



JUST IN: Crews are performing CPR on a fisherman who was swept off rocks at Little Bay. #9News

12:31 PM - Dec 31, 2017

 3  1  2



Fisherman critical after being swept off rocks - Little Bay

Sunday, 31 December 2017 04:28:53 PM

A fisherman remains in a critical condition after being swept off rocks at Little Bay, in Sydney's east.

Emergency services were called to Buchan Point just before midday today (Sunday 31 December 2017), after witnesses saw the man being swept off rocks.

Police from Eastern Beaches Police Area Command, along with ambulance paramedics, the Westpac Lifesaver Helicopter and Surf Lifesaving NSW, attended and commenced a search for the man.

He was located about 20 minutes later approximately 250 metres from shore.

The 49-year-old man was treated at the scene before being taken to St George Hospital in a critical condition.

The man was wearing a lifejacket and inquiries are continuing.

Police are also reminding members of the public of the importance of knowing Triple Zero '000' is the correct emergency services number in Australia, after witnesses today contacted '911' in the first instance.