Surf Life Saving Australia
PO Box 7773, Bondi Beach
NSW 2026
Phone: (02) 9215 8000

ACN 003 147 180
ABN 67 449 738 159
www.sls.com.au

RESCUE OF THE MONTH NOMINATION

CLUB/SERVICE	NORTH CRONULLA SLSC		
DATE OF INCIDENT	17/2/19	TIME OF INCIDENT	start 1:54pm (approximately)
NAMES OF LIFESAVER(S)/LIFEGUARD(S)	PATROL TEAM 7 & Lifeguards other support as referenced		
LOCATION OF INCIDENT	NORTH CRONULLA BEACH		
SURFGUARD INCIDENT NUMBER (IRD)			

Overview of the incident (limit 1 page)

This rescue effort from many people was an outstanding display of lifesaving skills and in turn a reflection of why Surf Clubs exist to keep the community safe. One page isn't enough space to fully document the entire chain of events for the rescue. It was a day when Lifesavers, both volunteers and professionals worked together, side by side to accomplish the perfect rescue. A rescue of over 50 people, with no one requiring oxygen or further medical treatment. The rescue was viewed by over 1000 people who watched on as these dedicated lifesavers did their business, utilising their fitness and years of training to have the result "NO LIVES LOST".

On the day there was a boat carnival (ASRL) being held north at Elouera Beach, with approximately 1000 people in attendance. The beaches of Bate Bay were extremely busy.

The beach at North Cronulla was well attended with around 2000 on the beach and in the water. The weather was very warm and the swell was NE at 1.25 metres.

A sandbank collapsed at approximately 1:54pm with an enormous amount of swimmers washed into deeper water and heading out to sea. Amongst the swimmers were members of the public of all ages, gender and demographics.

The patrol tower surveillance of the water immediately identified the dangerous sudden change of conditions and contacted the patrol on the radio. Members of North Cronulla SLSC and Sutherland Shire Council Lifeguards then implemented a full mass rescue. The patrol flags were dropped and beach closed. 12 rescue boards, 6 rescue tubes, 1 IRB and 1 IRB was launched immediately from North Cronulla Beach. Then arriving from other Bate Bay Beaches in quick time were another 2 IRB's that had been providing water safety for the ASRL Carnival, Sydney Branch Jet ski together with another 2 Sutherland Council Jet skis that were also providing water safety at Elouera. Following this 3 vehicles arrived from Elouera containing another 6 lifesavers from the Surf Club and Council Lifeguards. Whilst in transit in the vehicles this lifesaving team immediately identified the enormity of the situation that was unfolding and the amount of rescue craft and lifesavers both in the water and entering the water.

On arrival the mood at the beach whilst eerie was also calm. There was a regular procession of craft together with lifesavers delivering swimmers to the beach. Those rescued were obviously relieved but it was also noted by lifesavers how scared and terrified the swimmers were in the water. The lifesavers who entered the water with boards and tubes helped assist people to remain calm and safe until the power craft arrived to collect the swimmers and return them to shore. Back on the beach patrol members assisted the swimmers being returned to shore providing reassurance and support as required. Many family members were separated during this time, watching on concerned, looking for their loved ones. The beach itself was strangely silent with all eyes fixed on the water.

At approximately 2:09pm the last remaining swimmers were returned to shore by the boards, tubes, IRB's and Jet skis. Those involved with the rescue remained watching and reassuring the public until everyone was reunited.Many public thanked the relevant lifesavers, many new their life had been saved.

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PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS IN BRIEF BULLET POINT FORMAT	
SKILL AND RESOURCES APPLICATION 40%	*Were the skills used correctly and appropriately as per SOP's?* *Did the rescue / incident require advanced technical skills?* *Was the equipment chosen best for the conditions and skill level of the personnel?* *Was there optimal use of skills within the available personnel?*
The implementation of SOP's for this rescue is worthy of recognition as this rescue involved extremely high level decision making skills, cooperation, team work and communication all in a very quick timeframe. Patrol 7 are some of the most talented lifesavers and athletes in not just North Cronulla but also in surf lifesaving in general, many are multiple State and Australian Champions. Their high skill level ensured they were successfully able to utilise all rescue equipment available – boards, tubes and IRB's quickly leaving the beach, arriving at the swimmers in short time, assessing the situation, managing & supporting the crowd of swimmers until all were returned to shore, important as all swimmers couldn't be rescued at the same time	
PROCEDURES FOLLOWED 30%	*Were standard operating procedures followed?* *Was the safety of the rescuers involved appropriately assessed?* *Was there appropriate leadership, chain of command, good scene management, paperwork completed, follow-ups etc.?* *Was the equipment utilised appropriately?*
For this rescue the patrol knew their beach and the conditions and were proactive all day in containing the public in the flags. Secondly the patrol tower's ongoing surveillance of the beach was exactly as expected – consistent and active. Next the patrol towers communications with patrol members via radio and the patrol members constant radio monitoring ensured all communication was received and acted upon. Patrol members all knew their roles in advance and as such were readily able to implement mass rescue technique. Patrol flags were dropped.	
ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS 15%	*Was the incident around rocks, cliffs, or other precarious situations?* *What was the size of the surf, temperature, time, visibility, weather, and other environmental conditions at land or sea?*
Conditions on the beach on the day saw fine weather, 30 degrees, water temperature 22, surf conditions slight (0.5-1.25m). Wind NW - NE, low tide was at 1:52pm. Crowd numbers approximately 2000 on the beach at the time of the rescue, approximately 100 in the water. Patrol flags directly in front of the tower. This information has been provided by Council Lifeguards.	
POTENTIAL OUTCOME 10%	*Would the outcome have been the same if the rescuers hadn't intervened?*
Total number of people rescued as available were IRB number 1 = 9; IRB number 2 = 6; IRB number 3 = 7; Jet Ski number 1 = 11; Jet Ski number 2 = 8; Jet Ski number 3 = 8; Board rescues = 15; Board rescues = 7. The over whelming number of swimmers returned to shore in the space of just over 10 minutes requiring no further medical assistance is indication itself what could have happened had this rescue not been so successful.	
MEDIA CAPTURE/ COMMUNICATION 5%	*Were opportunities maximised in terms of media exposure? If yes, please attach article or give a brief overview of media exposure.*
This rescue received a significant amount of local media attention. Numerous articles were published in the local news and online, these articles attracted extremely postive feedback. In addition our Local Lifeguard supervisor and the Duty Officer have both strongly endorsed this rescue for nomination fo rescue of the month. Article screen shots attached.	

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RESCUE OF THE MONTH NOMINATION SCHEDULE							
PERIOD		NOMINATION PERIOD ENDS	BRANCH ROTM	STATE/TERRITORY ROTM		NATIONAL ROTM	
			Nominations Close (To Branch or ALS Manager)	Nominations Close (To State)	State Winner Announced	Nominations Close (To SLSA)	Winner Decided
2018	October	31-Oct	05-Nov	09-Nov	16-Nov	16-Nov	23-Nov
	November	30-Nov	03-Dec	07-Dec	14-Dec	14-Dec	19-Dec
	December	28-Dec	07-Jan	11-Jan	18-Jan	18-Jan	25-Jan
2019	January	31-Jan	08-Feb	15-Feb	22-Feb	22-Feb	28-Feb
	February	28-Feb	07-Mar	14-Mar	21-Mar	21-Mar	29-Mar
	March	31-Mar	05-Apr	12-Apr	19-Apr	19-Apr	26-Apr
	April	30-Apr	06-May	10-May	17-May	17-May	24-May
	May/June	30-Jun	08-Jul	12-Jul	19-Jul	19-Jul	26-Jul
	July/Aug	31-Aug	09-Sept	13-Sept	20-Sept	20-Sept	27-Sept
	September	30-Sept	07-Oct	11-Oct	18-Oct	18-Oct	25-Oct

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/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/Territory/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 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 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.

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CLUB SERVICE CHECKLIST – HAVE YOU:	
Completed the nomination form correctly?	✓
Checked that all nominees are proficient and members on SurfGuard?	✓
Attached Incident Log or reference incident number from SurfGuard?	✓
Attached any/all related media clippings?	✓
Forwarded to your Branch/State by the due date?	✓

CLUB ENDORSEMENT	
Name of club: NORTH CRONULLA SLSC	
Name of club representative: Mr / Mrs / Miss / Other MRS TRACEY MCKINNIERY	
Club rep. position title: MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR NCSLSC	
Club rep. contact phone no: 0408287899	Club rep. contact email: 7th March 2019
Club rep. signature: GEOFF BUDD PRESIDENT - 0418230465	Date: marketing@northcronullaslsc.com.au president.budd@northcronullaslsc.com.au

BRANCH (NSW AND QLD)			
Name of branch:	Surf Life Saving Sydney Branch		
Name of branch Rep.: Mr / Mrs / Miss / Other	Simon Torsellini		
Branch rep. position title:	Director of Lifesaving and Education		
Branch rep. contact phone no:	90190722 Branch	Branch rep. contact email:	dol@surflifesavingsydney.com.au
Branch rep. signature:		Date:	13/3/2019

STATE / TERRITORY	
State / Territory:	
Name of state rep: Mr / Mrs / Miss / Other	
State rep. contact phone no:	State rep. contact email:
State rep. signature:	Date:

Once endorsed by State, please send all nomination forms to:
Keiran Stone - kstone@slsa.asn.au

List involved in Mass Rescue

North Cronulla Members
William Budd – Patrol Captain
Jake Moses – Vice Patrol Captain
Curtis Cameron – IRB Crewman *
Addison Lewis – IRB Driver
Dane Bofinger
Abbey Bofinger
Jed Bofinger
Zach Diefenbach
Harrison Maddern
Olivia Holmes
Lily Shirlaw
Mark Smolonogov
Lucy Flanagan
Tyler Maddern
Ariane Sharpe
Tully Lane
Charlie Winkelmeier
Kyan Winn
Abbey Steele
Kate Workman
Ryan McGrath *
Sam Freeman *
Mikayla Futterleib *
Adrian Futterleib *
Members not on patrol whom assisted *

Sutherland Shire Lifeguards
At North Cronulla on duty
Jon Hayman
Todd Blanch

Arrived from Elouera
Brett Richardson – SSC Manager Public Safety
Lara Hughes – SSC Lifeguard
Steve Winner – SSC Lifeguards
Mitchell Palmer – SSC Lifeguards
Geoff Budd – North Cronulla
Joel Wiseman – ESO ASRL Carnival
Darren Galea – Elouera President

Jet Ski Operators
SSC – Aaron Markey
SSC – Matt Hollman
Sydney Branch – Chris Chambers

IRB's
Maroubra IRB (On duty at Elouera)
Mark Richardson - Driver
Gabriela Vigiola - Crewperson
Cronulla IRB (On duty at Elouera)
Carlo Vilanti – Crewman
Max Walker – Driver

Radio Co-Ordinator Elouera Tower
Bede Elphick – SSC Team Leader

President Budd

From: Robert Gascoigne <Robert.Gascoigne@acu.edu.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 February 2019 11:38 AM
To: admin
Cc: President Budd
Subject: Re: Thank you, Life saving incident Sunday 17 February

Geoff Budd, President, North Cronulla SLSC; Glenn-Marie Stockwell, Club Administrator

Dear Geoff and Glenn-Marie,

Thank you for your messages, and congratulations on the excellent service provided by the club's volunteers in the dangerous situation on Sunday. My wife alerted me to the article in 'The Leader', which gave helpful background on the cause of the problem and the number of people affected. I have made a donation as a gesture of appreciation.

In response to your request to give a brief description of what happened, I can offer the following:

I arrived at North Cronulla Beach about 2 p.m. and immediately entered the water between the flags, going up to approximately chest height. (I am 65 years old and 5ft9in tall.) I then dived under a wave, and found that I could not reach the bottom after coming up out of the water. I endeavoured to take a wave or two and swim back to where I could reach the bottom, but this failed on 2-3 attempts. Looking back to the flags I could see that I was a lot further out than I had been and pulled somewhat to the north. I noticed a man nearby with a young girl, probably his daughter, with his arm up, and already - very soon after the dangerous situation emerged - there were a number of life savers around us. (I was aware of roughly 8 people around me, adults and children, although the Leader article mentions that about 40 people were affected.) A life saver on a jet ski took someone to shore, and a number of people also on a rubber dinghy, to the best of my recollection. A lifesaver on a long board paddled to me and I was able to hold on to one of the handles on the side of his board. Soon a jet ski was available and I was guided on to that and brought to shore. I was asked whether I felt OK and whether I had swallowed much sea water. Since the rescue had come so quickly I was still in reasonable condition and could remain on the beach that afternoon, and enjoy watching some of the boat race further north in the bay.

At all times the life savers conducted themselves in a thoroughly professional, reassuring and supportive manner, for which I am very grateful.

May I congratulate you on the work of your Club and its dedication to community safety.

With best wishes,

Robert Gascoigne

North Cronulla Surf Life Saving Club It was a gorgeous day at the beach. We had a good swim. The water and weather were perfect. My husband and I were out of the water sitting on our towels for 5-10 minutes next to SLSC. We were in the perfect position to witness the team at work. It was truly incredible. I was just looking online now to see if there was any footage. Amazing team work and seamless coordination to rescue dozens. People rescued around us were so shaken and spoke about how serious the situation was. They spoke about nearly drowning and that people around them in the water who "couldn't swim" were grabbing onto them and making them sink. In 45 years I've never seen anything like it. I've never heard the term "mass rescue" before but what it actually looks like in action is simply stunning. Incredible job. The news media are quick to report fatalities but you never really hear about great teamwork

Geoff

I refer to the mass rescue of 40+ person at North Cronulla Beach on Sunday and would like to pass on my sincere appreciation to North Cronulla patrol and the additional water safety teams from Cronulla and Elouera IRB teams.

I would be more than prepared to support any application by the club to recognise the efforts of the patrol. I have attached one social media post that sums up members of the public who witnessed the events unfold.

To witness the teams work seamless together is a great acknowledgment of the relationship between the Bate Bay and Council. It is more than cordial relationships but a genuine partnership that clearly works and resulted in the lives of many being saved on Sunday.

I for one do not wish to ever witness a rescue like that, but know that the professionalism and response displayed is a great example of the depth we have in the Bate Bay.

On behalf of Council, can you please ensure your patrol is made aware of our acknowledgment and appreciation of a rescue well done.

Sincerely,

SUTHERLANDSHIRE

Brett Richardson
Manager | Public Safety | Shire Services
Ocean Safety + Lifeguard Headquarters
2A Marine Esplanade, Cronulla NSW 2230
02 9710 5741 | 0414 193 804
brichardson@ssc.nsw.gov.au
sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au

Connect with us:

Sign up to receive news and event information

Please find attached a Rescue of the Month Nomination for North Cronulla.
We will forward a second signed copy of this nomination once scanned.
Attached is the nomination together with endorsement letters and media articles.

From: Joel Wiseman [mailto:joelwiseman@bigpond.com]
Sent: Tuesday, 19 February 2019 9:47 AM
To: President Budd <president.budd@northcronullasisc.com.au>; Brett Richardson <BRichardson@ssc.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: president@elouera.com; 'Ian Toll' <iantoll@optusnet.com.au>; Bede Elphick <BElphick@ssc.nsw.gov.au>; Richard Pinker <presidentcsisc@gmail.com>; George Shales <g.shales@bigpond.com>; Director of Lifesaving & Sydney Branch <dol@surflifesavingsydney.com.au>; Phil Ayres <payres@surflifesaving.com.au>; Steven Pearce <spearce@surflifesaving.com.au>; Donna Wishart <dwishart@surflifesaving.com.au>
Subject: Re: Mass Rescue - North Cronulla

Morning all,

Geoff in my 15 years of being a patrolling member with SLSA, I have never witnessed anything like what occurred on Sunday afternoon.

I was situated at Elouera as the Safety & Emergency Management Coordinator for the ASRL Championships and what I witnessed was phenomenal. The rescue efforts carried out by North Cronulla, Cronulla, Elouera and the Sutherland Shire Lifeguards were certainly best practice in the world.

We suspended the ASRL carnival to deploy all rescue assets to assist. It had a live running commentary on the beach, with all eyes on the rescue. Numerous officials approached me saying "this is what every person on this beach is here for, to save lives" and another official from Victoria said "they had never witnessed anything like it".

The collaborative approach to get the rescue done, was amazing to witness. I would certainly recommend that this rescue be submitted for rescue of the month and I am more than happy to write an email supporting it, after watching it all unfold from Elouera.

A Surf Lifesaving Sydney Duty Officer who was at the ASRL carnival timed the rescue, stating it went for nearly 19 minutes.

A truly remarkable effort by all involved, with no one seriously injured. Well done all.

Kind regards,

Joel Wiseman
Safety & Emergency Management Coordinator ASRL
M: 0417017684

The Leader
22 February at 6:21 am ·

Rockdale MP Steve Kamper and wife Magda were among more than 40 people saved in the surf at North Cronulla last Sunday

THELEADER.COM.AU
Heroes of surf drama thanked
An emotional Mrs Kamper hugged patrol captain Will Budd, who paddled...

The Leader
19 February at 6:21 am ·

North Cronulla surf club president Geoff Budd: 'I still shudder when I think about what may have occurred'.

THELEADER.COM.AU
40 rescued after sandbank collapse
'I still shudder when I think about what may have occurred'. - Geoff Budd,...