

**Club/Service Rescue of the Month
Nomination Form**

**SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES**



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:	Randwick Surf Rescue 30		
Date of Incident:	22 October 2016	Time of Incident:	1415 EST
Full name of all Lifesaver(s) / Lifeguard(s) Involved:	Brad Taylor (SK), Nick Reilly (DR), Callum Good (CR) and Jon Kilbane		
Location of Incident:	500 metres south east off Yellow Rock (northern point of Malabar)		
Incident Number in SurfGuard:	Incident recorded in Vessel's operations Log and radioed to SurfCom		

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

At around 1415hrs Surf Rescue 30 was patrolling north from Long Bay along the beaches. As there was a 2 metre swell running and a strong SE wind we went wide past Yellow Rock to avoid the wash. The crew spotted two divers about 500 metres off Yellow Rock out to sea. We "doubled-back" to investigate and as we got closer we noticed they had activated their distress buoys.

We pulled up along side the divers and they told us they were American tourists who had been diving with a dive company at the southern end of Maroubra Beach. We asked if they were OK. They advised they had been separated from their dive boat and were waiting for it to come past so they could get picked up. As there was no boat in sight we suggested they come on board Surf Rescue 30 so we could find their boat. They were grateful for this suggestion in worsening sea conditions.

At this stage Surf Rescue 30 notified SurfCom that we had located two divers who had been separated from their dive group. We suggested SurfCom notify the police in case someone had reported them missing.

We positioned Surf Rescue 30 alongside the divers. The crew then worked together to bring them on board - one at a time. However, this was no easy task as the first person was well and truly tangled in the line of her distress float so we had to cut her free from the line to assist with removing her dive gear to then bring her on board our vessel. The swell and wind made rescue conditions treacherous and her recovery difficult. After getting her gear on board the crew were only then able to bring her on board and secure her.

By this time her dive buddy had drifted further south and we had had to go back to pick her up. Again she was also tangled and we had to cut her free. We had to repeat the process and worked hard to get her on board and secured as well.

Once both divers were on board we proceeded north to search for the dive boat. Maroubra SLSC's Patrol advised that there was a boat at the southern end of Maroubra. We spoke to the dive boat and asked if they were missing two divers. The dive master confirmed they appeared to be two divers short. We advised that we had them and commenced the transfer of the two divers and their gear across to the dive boat.

As we were completing the transfer SurfCom tasked us to a person in the water at Lurline Bay.

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>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rescue was performed in accordance with training procedures and the Powercraft Manual. A rescue of this type involving fully "kitted out" divers in large rolling seas and capping seas requires a degree of ingenuity which our training prepares the crews for. For example, cutting the divers loose from their attached distress buoy lines, keeping them calm, working together as a team coolly and collectively. Everyone did their job incredibly well to achieve a great outcome. 		
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>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sea conditions at the time were particularly nasty. Sea conditions between Yellow Rock and Dead Man's Gully are notoriously precarious because of the deep water which allows swells to stand up run up against the cliffs and bounce off making the swell extremely tricky. Winds were around 20-25 knots and the swell was capping. 		
Section 3	PROCEDURES FOLLOWED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Was the safety of the rescuers involved appropriately assessed?</i> • <i>Was there appropriate leadership, chain of command, good scene management, paperwork completed, follow-ups etc?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All crew were wearing appropriate PPE and the rescue processes were textbook. This rescue required all crew to work together quickly as a single unit to get the divers on board - no easy task with all their dive equipment in 2 metre seas. The craft had to position and hold in a difficult and, at times, conflicting swell as rescue crew worked to retrieve and secure the patients. 		
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>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's said that outcome of the rain dance is more often than not to do with the timing. Given the sea conditions and the location, without intervention this could have been at best a full scale search; at worst, a drowning off Randwick notorious Yellow Rock and a headline in Sydney's Sunday Telegraph. The crews intervention prevented this. 		
Section 5	MEDIA CAPTURE/ COMMUNICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Were opportunities maximised in terms of media exposure? If yes, please attach article or give a brief overview of media exposure.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rescue was posted on Surf Rescue 30's FaceBook and Twitter account by the Group's Social media coordinator and the Surf Rescue 30 received positive feedback. 		

Checklist – Have you?

Completed the nomination form correctly?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Checked that all nominees are proficient and members on SurfGuard?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Attached Incident Log or reference incident number in SurfGuard?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Attached any/all related media clippings?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Forwarded to your Branch by the due date?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Name:

Club/Service:

By supplying and completing the above information and forwarding to your Branch, you agree that all information provided is accurate and true and that you have club/service authorisation to submit. You also agree with the terms and conditions of the related SLSNSW Rescue of the Month Program (2015/16) Memorandum and its requirements.