



NATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE COUNCIL

42nd National Search and Rescue Council

Annual Meeting Report
12-13 September 2018, Darwin



Executive summary

The 42nd annual meeting of the National Search and Rescue Council was held 12-13 September 2018 at the Peter McAulay Centre (Police Training College) Darwin, hosted by the Northern Territory Police and chaired by Brad Groves, General Manager, Standards Division, Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). Twenty-seven delegates from the 10 jurisdictions that provide Australia's search and rescue service (AMSA, State / Territory Police and the Australian Defence Force) and observers from the National Volunteer Marine Search and Rescue Committee, Bureau of Meteorology and the New Zealand Search and Rescue Council also attended. Acting Deputy Commissioner Michael Murphy, Northern Territory Police, formally opened the meeting.

Each SAR Authority presented a report on notable SAR incidents, including capabilities, training, SAR Technologies and future developments within their jurisdiction from the 17/18 financial year. These reports provide Council members the opportunity to learn from shared experiences and demonstrate the importance of working seamlessly during joint search and rescue operations.

The Council assessed its achievements in the 2017/18 financial year against the Business Plan and a Performance Report was prepared to highlight these. Training, SAR technology and operating procedures were topics of particular interest to all jurisdictions. The significance of these discussions was invaluable to continue providing an effective SAR service for Australia. Some of the key issues included:

- Development of a National SAR Training Framework by AMSA.
- Establishment of a national arrangement for the disposal of beacons.
- Development of a proposed model for SAR Authorities to access VMS data from fisheries agencies to standardise the SAR alerting process and create national consistency.
- Exploration of a suitable approach for Remotely Piloted Aviation Systems (RPAS) in relation to SAR.
- Consultation with state and territory health and medical/clinical services on the proposed wording regarding the transfer of coordination arrangements for medical evacuations (MEDEVACs).

The meeting resulted in over forty outcomes, which AMSA and Council members will jointly progress over the next 12-24 months.

The meeting's formal event, the National Search and Rescue Awards dinner, was held at Crocosaurus Cove and two categories of recipients were recognised - professionals and non-professionals - for their willingness to risk their own life in order to save others. To read more about the National Search and Rescue Awards, please view here <https://www.amsa.gov.au/2018-australian-search-and-rescue-awards>.

The National Search and Rescue Council annual meeting is hosted by the State/Territory SAR Authorities (the Police) on a rotational basis over an eight year cycle. The 43rd National Search and Rescue Council meeting will be hosted by South Australia Police, in September 2019.

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List of attendees

Representatives of NATSAR Council Member Organisations

AMSA Staff		
Brad Groves	General Manager, Standards	AMSA
Julian Mitchell	a/General Manager, Response	AMSA
Louise Proctor	Manager, Response Policy	AMSA
Alan Lloyd	Manager AMSA Response Centre	AMSA
Craig Condon	Chief, JRCC	AMSA
Kylie Archer	NATSAR Council Secretariat	AMSA
NATSAR Council Members		
Steve Burke	Inspector	TAS Police
Michael Preshaw	Sergeant	TAS Police
Paul Crawshaw	Operations Manager	WA Water Police
Steve Scott	Senior Sergeant	WA Police
Jim Whitehead	Senior Sergeant	QLD Police Service
Brad Robinson	Senior Sergeant	NSW Bomb Squad
Paul Farquharson	Sergeant	NSW Marine Area Command
Darren Wood	Inspector	NSW Marine Area Command
Greg Paul	Senior Sergeant	VIC Police
Mark Arneil	Inspector	VIC Police
John Todor	Superintendent	VIC Police
Mark O'Rourke	Acting Inspector	VIC Police
David O'Donovan	Superintendent	SA Police
Phil Gear	Senior Sergeant	SA Police
Paul Kolesnikowicz	Senior Sergeant	SA Police
Hege Burns	Superintendent	NT Police
Stefan Herold	Senior Sergeant	NT Police
Meacham King	Sergeant	NT Police
John Pini	Sergeant	NT Police
David Bell	Sergeant	Australian Federal Police
Pete Fishpool	Squadron Leader	Australian Defence Force
Observers/Presenters		
Darryl Wright	Chair	NVMSARC
Duncan Ferner	NZ Secretariat	NZ SAR Council
John Pine	National Coordinator	NZ Police
Lucie Blom	Bureau of Meteorology	BOM
Adrian Pettifor	Client Relationship Manager	Cobham
Colin Holmes	Chief Observer	Cobham

AGENDA Day 1, Wednesday 12 September 2018

Time	Topic	Speaker	Paper
9.00am	Formal Opening	NT	
9.10	1. Administration		
	1.1 Welcome and apologies	Chair	1.1
9.15	2. NATSAR Council Meeting Agenda		
	2.1 Order of business and any other items	Chair	2.1
	2.2 Announcement of National SAR Award recipients	Chair	verbal
9.30	3. SAR Operations		
	3.1 SAR Authority Reports (<i>each jurisdiction allocated 15mins</i>)	Jurisdictions	3.1
10.30	Morning Tea - Photo		
11.00	3.1 SAR Authority Reports continued		
12.00	3.2 National Volunteer Marine SAR Committee Report	NVMSARC	3.2
12.15	3.3 AMSA SAR Operations Report	AMSA	3.3
12.30	3.4 International SAR Operations and Liaison	NZ	verbal
12.45	3.5 Activity Summary: Annual Council Performance Report	AMSA	3.5
1.00	Lunch		
1.45 – 5.00	4. National SAR System Arrangements – Strategic topics		
	4.1 Mass Rescue Operations		
	Complex Emergencies SAR workshop	VIC	4.1.1
	NZ Mass Rescue Operations	NZ	verbal
	4.2 Medical Evacuations	AMSA	4.2
	4.3 Vessel Management Systems (VMS) alerting	AMSA	4.3
	4.4 Beacon Disposal Arrangement	AMSA	4.4
	4.5 National SAR Training		
	Developments in National SAR Training Approach	AMSA	4.5.1
	National Police SAR Manager's Course Report	QLD	4.5.2
	4.6 Interoperability between SAR Authorities (Beacon Distress Data)	AMSA	verbal
3.15	Afternoon Tea		
	National SAR System Arrangements – Strategic topics continued		
4.45	Day 1 Wrap up	AMSA	
6.30pm	Informal evening gathering – Sailing Club		

AGENDA Day 2, Thursday 13 September 2018

Time	Topic	Speaker	Paper
8.45am	Day 1 Recap		
9.00	5. National SAR Capability – SAR Technology		
	5.1 SAR Technology Working Group Report	AMSA	5.1
	5.2 Search Technology and Research		
	Night Circle Search Techniques	AMSA	5.2.1
	Lost Person Behaviour	QLD	5.2.2
	Unlocated victims of violent crimes	QLD	5.2.3
10:30	Morning Tea		
10.45	5.3 Mobile Phone Technology	NZ	verbal
	5.4 Weather Update	BOM	5.4
	5.5 Maritime Communications		
	SAR Radio communications	AMSA	5.5.1
	Use of UHF radio for Land SAR	QLD	5.5.2
	5.6 Cobham Presentation - Challenger capability update	Cobham	verbal
1.00	Lunch		
1.45	6. National Safety Messaging and SAR Events		
	6.1 Land SAR Engagement	AMSA	6.1
	6.2 Australia and New Zealand SAR Conference	AMSA	verbal
	6.3 Aerial Search and Rescue Conference	AMSA	verbal
2.45	7. Council Administration and Development		
	7.1 NATSAR Council Business Plan	AMSA	7.1
	7.2 National SAR Award Sponsorship	AMSA	7.2
	7.3 Proposed amendments to NATSAR Manual	AMSA	7.3
	7.4 NATSAR Council action table	AMSA	7.4
	7.5 Format of Council meeting	AMSA	verbal
3.15	Afternoon Tea		
3.30	Council Administration and Development continued		
4.15	Day Two summary / Meeting ends	Chair	
6.30pm	Australian SAR Award Dinner (Crococaurus Cove)		

42nd NATSAR Annual Meeting Outcomes

Outlined below is a summary of the agreed outcomes from the 42nd NATSAR Council annual meeting.

NATSAR Council Strategic Development and Governance

1. Endorsed the Secretariat to circulate the NATSAR Council Performance Report to Police Commissioners with the Statement of Meeting Outcomes from NATSAR 42. The Council Performance Report provides a summary of the Councils' achievements during the 2017/18 FY, against the Council Business Plan objectives.
2. Agreed the Secretariat will update the 2018-2020 Business Plan with agreed outcomes from NATSAR 42, and South Australia Police will facilitate a strategic thinking session at NATSAR 43 in 2019, to develop a revised Business Plan for the next 5-10 years.
3. Assessed the possibility of obtaining external sponsorship for the Australian National Search and Rescue Award event, and determined not to progress due to varying sponsorship policies across jurisdictions.
4. Agreed the Secretariat will revise the SAR Activity report template to one page, including highlights, challenges and opportunities; and will trial for at least one year to determine its effectiveness.
5. Agreed the Secretariat will work with New Zealand to develop high-level definitions of SAR statistics for the report, and circulate to jurisdictions out of session to determine the feasibility of reporting against these. The purpose of these statistics is to have the ability to report a national view of SAR activity across all jurisdictions.

National SAR Manual

6. Noted the significant work by Senior Sergeant Jim Whitehead and the Secretariat to complete the new format of the National SAR Manual and agreed to explore options to enhance the ease of navigating between marine, aviation and land sections.
7. Agreed to send correspondence to the Queensland Police Commissioner, requesting Senior Sergeant Whitehead's expertise to continue reviewing both the format and content of the National SAR Manual.
8. Agreed for the Directing Staff from the National SAR Manager's Course to collate feedback from their respective jurisdictions about the new format and forward this feedback to the Secretariat.
9. Noted the importance and prevalence of diving capability in responding to SAR incidents and agreed to look at how to incorporate this into the National SAR Manual to provide appropriate guidance for SAR Coordinators.

10. Agreed to update the National SAR Manual with proposed changes to section 1.19.1 relating to UHF CB style radios, focussing on the best balance between portability and communications for persons travelling in remote areas.
11. Agreed to amend the National SAR Manual with the proposed amendments presented in WP 7.3, which the Secretariat will publish in early 2019.

National SAR Training

12. Noted that the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) is developing a National SAR Training Framework and has engaged a curriculum designer to develop a training pathway. The 4 stage process will be completed by the end of November 2018. The AMSA RTO will then determine a way forward for AMSA SAR training, including a broader assessment involving the national SAR Manager's Course and where it fits at a national level. AMSA will provide an update in early 2019, including the decision on accreditation as part of the pathway.
13. Agreed the following outcomes relating to the National SAR Manager's Course:
 - a. The Queensland Police Registered Training Organisation will again continue to administer the National SAR Manager's Course for 2019;
 - b. Senior Sergeant, Jim Whitehead, Queensland Police will remain the course Director for the 2019 National Police SAR Manager's Course, with Senior Sergeant, Mick Morris, New South Wales Police as the Assistant Director;
 - c. The Secretariat will send the official invite requesting nominations for course participants and Directing Staff to Police Commissioners in early February 2019;
 - d. The Secretariat and Course Director will continue to explore venues for the 2019 NATSAR Manager's Course.

Vessel Management Systems (VMS) Alerting

14. Agreed for the Council to develop a proposed model for SAR Authorities to access VMS data from fisheries agencies to standardise the SAR alerting process and create national consistency.

Medical Evacuations (MEDEVACs)

15. Reviewed the proposed wording regarding the transfer of coordination arrangements for medical evacuations (MEDEVACs); and agreed for jurisdictions to conduct internal consultation with their respective health and medical/clinical services coordinators to ensure the proposed wording is in line with state/territory arrangements.
16. Agreed for jurisdictions to propose suggested amendments to the Secretariat by 30 November so the NATSAR Manual can be updated for the next published edition in early 2019.

Beacon Disposal Service

17. Noted that AMSA is progressing the establishment of a national arrangement for the disposal of beacons, with an Expression of Interest (EOI) to be released before the end of 2018. AMSA to provide a progress update at the next teleconference.

Information Sharing Protocol

18. Agreed the Secretariat will include in the letter of outcomes to Police Commissioners, an item relating to the sharing of information for SAR purposes between Police and AMSA. AMSA will also propose a template to formalise the request for information from Police to assist the intelligence gathering phase during SAR operations.
19. Discussed providing information to Emergency Management Australia (EMA) about SAR capability and skills across jurisdictions for when assistance is required for international deployments. The Secretariat will explore this further with EMA and provide an update at the next teleconference.

Involvement of non-SAR Agencies in SAR Coordination

20. Discussed the risks associated with the involvement of non-SAR agencies in the coordination of SAR incidents, particularly in regards tasking decisions where knowledge of appropriately trained and qualified response personnel is critical to the success and safety of an incident.
21. Agreed to correspond with the National Emergency Communications Working Group (NECWG) regarding this topic and highlight the need for role clarity and enhanced integration between state response agencies.

SAR Exercises and Mass Rescue Workshops

22. Agreed for AMSA to consider attendance at state/territory SAR exercises to enhance interoperability between SAR authorities and other response organisations, and for notification to be given well in advance of these exercises if possible.
23. Agreed the Secretariat will circulate the outcomes of the Complex Maritime Emergencies SAR workshop held in May 2018, and provide an update at teleconference one on the impending Maritime Border Command exercise scheduled for 4-5 December 2018.
24. Noted the invitation from New Zealand to attend their series of Mass Rescue Workshops, with the next being held in Christchurch on 16 October 2018 and in Hamilton on 7 November 2018. The New Zealand SAR Secretariat will advise the NATSAR Council of the next set of workshop dates once confirmed.

SAR Technology

25. Noted the SAR Technology Working Group convened in July 2018 for the third meeting since its inception in 2016, to discuss and review emerging technologies that have implications for SAR in Australia. The Council agreed to reconvene the Working Group again ahead of the 2019 National SAR Manager's Course to enable the participation of the Directing Staff.
26. Noted AMSA's acceptance on to the Inter-CAD Electronic Messaging System (ICEMS) Steering Committee to progress the initiative regarding the transfer of information between SAR agencies and Police using ICEMS. AMSA will provide a further update at teleconference one.
27. Noted AMSA will progress procurement for alternative sources of Direction Finding (DF) equipment, which will result in a panel of suppliers for jurisdictions to access. AMSA will update jurisdictions on the progress and provide an analysis of the DF equipment as required.
28. Agreed the Secretariat will circulate the updated guidance on Electronic Visual Distress Signals (EVDS), which addresses common queries about alternatives to pyrotechnic flares and continue to update the Council on research as it progresses.
29. Agreed the SAR Technology Working Group will explore a suitable approach for Remotely Piloted Aviation Systems (RPAS) in relation to SAR. This will contribute to further input and discussions on RPAS at the 43rd NATSAR annual meeting in 2019.
30. Noted the trials of the new Night Circle Search Technique being developed by AMSA and Cobham, and agreed for AMSA to continue updating the Council as developments evolve. Jurisdictions were requested to inform the Council of any related techniques being utilised at a state/territory level that could be shared to assist with future developments.
31. Noted the presentation by Lucie Blom from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) regarding developments in weather forecasting technology and access to weather information, designed to improve safety outcomes for SAR. Agreed to make the presentation available on the NATSAR Council website. It was noted that the proposed centralisation of weather forecasters in Tasmania is of concern and if progressed, may affect marine and airborne policing operations.
32. Noted BOM's update on the proposed centralisation of weather forecasters in some areas, including Tasmania, and the possible impacts on marine and airborne policing operations. Agreed for jurisdictions to provide points of contact to BOM to ensure jurisdictions have awareness of weather information and developments for improved maritime safety.
33. Noted that a multi-agency working group consisting of ACMA, Marine Rescue NSW, Tasmania Maritime Radio and Glenn Dunstan and Associates, is developing an updated Very High Frequency (VHF) radio plan to align with the current (2016) Radio Regulations.

34. Noted the intention to cease High Frequency (HF) voice monitoring of HF Distress, Urgency and Safety voice channels in Australia, with some State/Territories continuing existing monitoring arrangements during the 2 year transition period out to 31 December 2020. Agreed the Secretariat will update the Council as transition planning occurs and will request the assistance of Council members to communicate future changes to stakeholders.

National SAR Research and Analysis

35. Noted the Australian Lost Person Behaviour database has a 98% success rate and agreed jurisdictions will continue to enter data to further enhance the robustness of the database. Also agreed for the Council to explore the possibility of a Lost Person Database App to facilitate easy access to relevant NATSAR Manual guidance during a SAR operation.
36. Noted that jurisdictions were previously requested to provide data to support research relating to the utilisation of SAR techniques for finding unlocated victims of violent crimes. Three jurisdictions responded and a total of 697 incidents were recorded.
37. Agreed the Council will correspond with the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) to encourage jurisdictions to input their data into the Unlocated Victims of Violent Crimes research.

Land SAR Engagement

38. Noted the ongoing effective implementation of the National Land SAR Coordination procedure with 98% of incidents being conducted by the appropriate SAR Authority.
39. The Secretariat provided jurisdictions with analysis of land SAR incidents and beacon registrations to assist Police with targeted safety messaging for their land-based stakeholders.
40. Agreed for Senior Sergeant, Jim Whitehead, Queensland Police to prepare correspondence to St John Ambulance and other first aid providers, requesting that their training courses and manuals recommend two way communications as the preferred method of distress activation (e.g. '000' emergency services) with beacons being the secondary method.
41. Agreed for South Australia to develop an out of session information paper requesting contact information be provided for SAR personnel at or near state/territory boundaries to assist with cross-jurisdictional response operations. Noted the Secretariat will forward this request to Council members for reply.

National SAR Conferences and Safety Forums

42. Agreed for the Council to support both the Australia and New Zealand SAR Conference and the Aerial SAR Asia Pacific Conference in 2019. Details of these conferences are as follows:
- a. Australia and New Zealand SAR Conference, 14 June 2019, Gold Coast. <https://sar.anzdmcc.com.au/>
 - b. Aerial SAR Asia Pacific Conference 2019, 21-22 February 2019, Essendon, Victoria. <https://www.sar-apac.com/>
43. Agreed for Council members to engage through the Australia and New Zealand Safe Boating Education Group (ANZSBEG) relating to SAR prevention for safety initiatives between Police and the marine safety agencies; and noted the invitation for Council members to attend ANZSBEG when its hosted in their respective jurisdiction.

Next NATSAR Council Annual Meeting

44. Agreed the Council will progress with the two-day format of the meeting for 2019 and the Awards dinner to be held at the conclusion of the first meeting day.
45. Noted that South Australia Police will host the 43rd NATSAR annual meeting in 2019.



Analysis of National Search and Rescue Activity

Each jurisdiction presented a report on SAR activity within their state/territory. Below is a summary of key points from these reports, providing a national view of SAR activity.

Trends	Comments
Causative factors	<p>No new causative factors, however the factors below continue to impact SAR across all jurisdictions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dementia/mental health and other risk groups. Increase in despondency / suicide related incidents <i>(Qld gives an excellent breakdown of this)</i> • Human factors - lack of preparedness and failure to properly study and understand weather patterns and tides including low level of knowledge in relation to navigation. • Breakdown / Mechanical failure / Overdue vessels / Vessels in distress / Collisions and Lack of fuel/poorly maintained vessels • Illegal smuggling, Alcohol and Drugs • Increase in adventure based activities into the remote outdoors - caving and bushwalking incidents
Enhancing operational SAR capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remotely piloted aviation systems (RPAS) continue to develop within the Search and Rescue space both currently and also in the future. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The training of RPAS operators continues within some jurisdictions and this assists with quicker recoveries. ○ The introduction by the ADF of the MQ-4C Triton High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Remotely Piloted Aviation System (RPAS). Although this capability will not be online until 2023-24 it will greatly improve the ADF ability to contribute long-range and long-endurance overwatch of SAR events as well as provide real-time reporting and full-motion-video/imagery of SAR datums and events. • Search and Rescue exercises continue across jurisdictions. The lessons learnt and outcomes from these exercises can assist to refine processes and procedures for live SAR. • Unified command structures. • The introduction of assets continue to contribute and build on the search and rescue system. NSW Marine - engaged in construction of seven new ocean going Launches (Vessels) for distribution at all regional sectors. These launches are expected for delivery in May 2019.
Safety Programs and Community Awareness and Social Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of facebook and social media in general to locate missing persons continues to provide excellent success rate of finding missing persons. • Safe-T-Cam – the use of Safe-T-Cam to track missing persons who

	<p>are in a vehicle has been useful in narrowing down locations to focus on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety Programs and Community awareness continue to be active across all jurisdictions. Some of the highlights, including Media Campaigns are: • Media awareness campaigns continue to send strong messages in relation to search and rescue. In particular the AFP media awareness campaign about essential items to take when in remote areas, what to do if lost and who to notify, focussed on people obtaining a PLB and the importance of how resources can be reduced if needing to locate them. • A joint project between NSW Police and Google regarding mobile application for LANDSAR. This concept will allow police to enter relevant missing person data on the mobile application, which will be accessible to members of the public who are located within the selected area. This will assist with police coordinating volunteer community involvement. • Regular SES and Marine Volunteer activities continue to be conducted in jurisdictions, including search planning and approaching lost persons. • To raise awareness at community events and schools, the crew of the television program 'Air Rescue' once again filmed police and ambulance members operating on the Tasmania helicopter rescue service. • Boat shows continue to be popular events to promote and launch activities and projects. Western Australia Water Police in partnership with the Department of Transport Marine Safety Division have commenced a project aiming at complacency on the water. There are jointly run campaigns being officially launched at the Perth Boat Show in late September 2018. • The number of land SAR operations undertaken as a result of Dementia was predominant across majority of jurisdictions. The WA Police Force Emergency Operations Unit is currently exploring opportunities to mitigate the number of Land SAR operations relating to this by leveraging off technological advancements and raising public awareness. The unit is also undertaking further training to better understand lost person behaviour for Dementia and improved methods for obtaining missing persons antecedents.
<p>Emergency Services and Volunteer agency participation, including future developments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There appears to be a trend of an increasing number of impromptu searchers arriving at forward command posts to offer assistance. Whilst the assistance is appreciated it can pose risks and logistic burdens. The current strategy is to utilise the assistance in low risk areas in order to ensure safety. • Identified linkages between search and rescue and broader state emergency service arrangements, including the reorganisation of volunteer organisations. (VIC Land) • In Queensland the integration with volunteer dog units continues to progress well and the SES Trail bike squad. • NSW Marine finalised the rock fishing compliance framework and study which contributed to the Legislation under the Rock Fishing Safety Act

	<p>2016 (NSW) requiring all rock fishermen to wear lifejackets in the Randwick Local Government Area.</p>
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and continued development of coordinators, including the 2018 NATSAR Managers Course where 18 students completed the course. • Search and Rescue exercises continue to be conducted within jurisdictions, including inter-state participation. • Majority of jurisdictions identified providing regular courses and targeted training to specific areas to improve and continue skill sets.
Utilising technology for SAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced electronic mapping tools in land SAR for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PolSAR ○ MapInfo ○ ARCMAP ○ MapSAR • Electronic SAR mapping incident systems • Applications for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Log-on / log off applications – voyage plans / vessels can be monitored in real time • Increased use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)

National Search and Rescue Awards

The National Search and Rescue Awards recognises ‘*Outstanding contribution to Search and Rescue*’ within the Australian Region. There are four categories of awards, the Professional search and rescue award, Professional commendation, Non-professional search and rescue award and Non-professional commendation. The 2018 National Search and Rescue Awards dinner was held at Crocosorus Cove, Darwin on 13 September and Mr Brad Groves, General Manager, Standards Division, AMSA presented the Awards to the following recipients:

Professional Search and Rescue Award – Elliot River, Queensland Boat Rescue

- Detective Sergeant Andrew Self (*Queensland Police Service*)

Detective Sergeant Andrew Self swam 50 meters towards a distressed vessel under rough conditions and in complete darkness, extracting two men and guiding them to the rescue boat.

Professional Commendation Award – Midnight Hole Cave, Mystery Creek Tasmania Rescue

- Sergeant Damian Bidgood, Senior Constable Josh Peach, Senior Constable Ingrid pajak (*Tasmania Police*);
- Anna Ekdahl, Han-Wei Lee (*Ambulance Tasmania*); and
- Alan Jackson, Stefan Eberhard, Michael packer, Serena Benjamin, Andreas Klocker, Ric Tunney, Janine McKinnon, Gabriel Kinzler, Amy Robertson, Darren Holloway, Ola Lofquist, Loretta Bell (*Southern Tasmanian Caverneers*).

For the rescue of a woman who had fallen into the Midnight Hole Cave, Mystery Creek in Tasmania. The rescue required a complex stretcher extraction via rigging from the challenging location.

Non - professional Search and Rescue Award – Marion Bay, Tasmania boat rescue

- Zeb Critchlow

Responding to an overturned vessel being battered by five-foot surf with two men clinging to it, Zeb Critchlow rescued both men with use of his jet ski. Upon hearing there may be a third person Zeb dived under the boat numerous times to see if anyone was trapped. After many attempts no one was sighted. A later conversation revealed a third person had passed away.

Non-professional Commendation Award – Southport Seaway, Queensland jet ski rescue

- Joel Howell

Being flung from his jet ski with a friend, Jowell noticed his friend had been dragged under the water and swallowed large amounts of sea water. Jowell swam across the rip to rescue his friend until the Westpac rescue helicopter winched Joel’s friend to safety.

Further information on the Award recipients and their contribution to Search and Rescue can be found here <https://2018.NationalSearchandRescueAwards>

