



Numismatic History

of

**The Royal Life Saving
Society - Australia**

James R McClelland

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- Australia

by

James Robert McClelland

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by James Robert McClelland



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Contents

<i>Preface</i>	2
<i>History of The Royal Life Saving Society</i>	3
<i>Motto, Badge and Crown</i>	6
<i>The Bronze Medallion History</i>	7
<i>Proficiency Medals</i>	11
<i>Bronze Medallion</i>	12
<i>Speciality Bronze Medallions</i>	23
<i>ALSS Bronze Medallion</i>	28
<i>Diploma</i>	29
<i>Award of Merit</i>	30
<i>Bronze Cross</i>	37
<i>Distinction Award</i>	42
<i>Bronze Star</i>	43
<i>Grey Medallion</i>	50
<i>Miscellaneous Medals</i>	51
<i>Awards of the Society in Australia</i>	53
<i>Australian Bravery Awards</i>	54
<i>Australian Honour Awards</i>	57
<i>Commonwealth Bravery Awards</i>	63
<i>Commonwealth Honour Awards</i>	64
<i>Condensed Timeline-RLSS</i>	73
<i>Photo Credits</i>	76
<i>Bibliography</i>	77

Preface

Last year, 2016, marked the 125th anniversary of THE ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY, while 2017 is the 125th anniversary of the BRONZE MEDALLION.

Bronze Medallion – what do people think of when they hear these two words? A lifesaver, more often than not - a highly qualified, well trained lifesaver. The Bronze Medallion, signifying a qualified lifesaver, has been a lifesaving standard award of The Royal Life Saving Society-Australia and Surf Life Saving Australia for over one hundred years. It was developed in England in 1892. It has evolved over the years to accommodate the environmental conditions of Australia.

The Bronze Medallion, or Medallions made of Bronze have been with us for thousands of years. Medallions have been struck by societies and groups of people for many reasons. Be it to commemorate a significant event or give reward for saving of life or reward for competition, or even attending every day of school, as was done in England during the nineteenth century. As with The Royal Life Saving Society's Bronze Medallion, the Medallions do not carry the phrase Bronze Medallion. They are simply that - a Bronze Medallion.

The Bronze Medallion was the first proficiency award of the Society. Its design has developed over the years, to the recognisable design known today which was first produced in 1938. From the late 1950s, early 1960s saw the Society medals being produced by member Branches, outside the United Kingdom. Production, location and economic conditions have resulted in the variation of the medal designs. Other Society proficiency medal designs also have developed over the years. This book reviews these designs, in chronological order.

Special thanks to the following lifesavers in supplying photos of medals for this publication: Emma Harrison-Commonwealth Office; David Browne-Ireland; Rhonda Groneman-Australian Office; Michael Darben-Queensland Office, Paul Barry-Queensland; and John McClelland-Queensland.

Finally, my apologies in advance for any missed or partial information. Please feel free to contact me in regard to any clarifications, corrections, comments or additional information.

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“Celebrating 125 years of the Bronze Medallion in 2017”

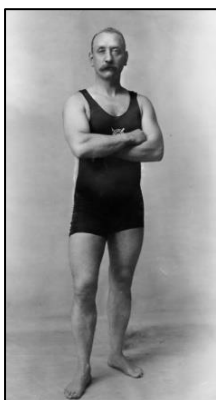
History of The Royal Life Saving Society

Drowning (both accidental and suicide) in England and Wales was on the increase. During 1890 drowning totalled 2,998 (2,378 males/620 females).¹

In early 1887 twenty-eight year old champion swimmer William Henry recognised that drowning was preventable and knowing something had to be done he petitioned the Royal Humane Society to undertake the training of lifesaving skills. With little interest, no action was taken by the Royal Humane Society. However, William Henry and his journalist friend and water polo player, Archibald Sinclair, followed up with a letter dated 29th November 1887, setting forth a scheme for forming classes of instruction in lifesaving, to which the Society replied the following day; “the committee can do no more without neglecting the legitimate work of the Society”.²

After a couple of years William Henry and Archibald Sinclair then approached the Amateur Swimming Association. The Association appointed a committee, which on the 11th May 1889 made its report. The committee recommended: a committee should be appointed; classes be held in different districts arranged by swimming clubs at times set by the central committee; demonstrations & lectures be arranged by the central committee; and clubs print lifesaving rules in their books of fixtures. The committee further recommended: a preliminary meeting be held at a good bath to demonstrate rescue work followed by a social meeting to discuss the matter; a circular be sent to all affiliated clubs; and assistance be made to the Royal Humane Society, St John Ambulance Association & the Corporation of London. Nothing was done.

The reason for the lack of action is unknown, but lack of finance and a lack of executive interest in the project, could be considered the likely reasons. As part of the plan, assistance was required from the Royal Humane Society, the St John Ambulance Association and the Corporation of London, which more than likely entailed raising money. Academic Christopher Love believes there were internal reasons why the swimming world would not accept the report’s initiative; the Amateur Swimming Association was undergoing internal reorganisation after being created by the merger, in 1886, of the Amateur Swimming Union and the Swimming Association of Great Britain. Thus the need to devote its energies to projects deemed more immediately important, such as the best way to organise itself on a regional level.³



William Henry and Archibald Sinclair were not deterred.

William Henry and Archibald Sinclair wrote; “The neglect of diving, floating, plunging and scientific swimming by ordinary clubs led, in 1891, to the calling of a meeting of seven gentlemen interested in swimming, for the purpose of founding a special club to encourage the arts named, and, in addition, to vigorously carry out instruction, &c., the recommendations of the Amateur Swimming Association as to the saving of life from drowning.”⁴

William Henry – circa 1900s
(Photo: RLSS-UK)

¹ Love, C. Op Cit. p103.

² Pearsall, R. (1991). Lifesaving: The Story of The RLSS-The First 100 years. p8.

³ Love, C. (2008). A Social History of Swimming in England, 1800-1918. p105.

⁴ Sinclair, A., & Henry, W. (1893). Swimming. p214.

On the 3rd January 1891 William Henry and Archibald Sinclair along with their close friends (all swimmers) Walter S Brickett, H Hewitt Griffin, C Val Hunter, Frederick W Moses and Edward W Stafford held a meeting at Anderton's Hotel, London, at which approximately sixty people were in attendance. A committee of twelve was appointed to create the rules of the new association titled 'The Ornamental Swimming, Diving, and Life-Saving Society'.⁵

On the 7th February 1891 a General Meeting was held, thus forming 'The Swimmer's Life Saving Society'. The name was changed within the year to 'The Life Saving Society'.

William Henry and Archibald Sinclair were appointed the first Honorary Joint Secretaries of the Society. The first year was devoted to mainly organisation. It clearly paid off. The main aim of the Society was to raise swimming above the level of competitive sport and make swimmers aware that just swimming was not enough for the saving of life but to develop a rescue system that would be effective, attractive and simple to understand.

With Victorian philanthropic work on the rise, the world of Victorian swimming and Victorian humanitarian ideals were drawn together with the formation of The Life Saving Society. The Society exists for the benefit of the community.

The first lecture was given on 25th May 1891 by Sir Andrew Clark, personal physician to the Prime Minister, at the Polytechnic Institute, London. The lecture was followed by numerous demonstrations. The Society moved quickly, establishing public demonstrations and developing an attractive demonstration to keep the interest of the public. By the end of 1892 more than 90 public lectures and demonstrations had been held.

The most important and the greatest impact was the instruction of lifesaving in schools, both public schools and state schools with the greatest emphasis placed on lifesaving lessons within the state system. The first official school classes were run in 1892 in London Board schools.⁶

The first handbook, edited by Archibald Sinclair and William Henry, was published in late 1891. Classes increased with the publication of the first handbook. The Bronze Medallion was introduced in 1892. In 1892, not only were over 30 rescues recorded (16 by members of The Life Saving Society), but 86 Bronze Medallions were awarded. The first ten female candidates were amongst the 207 Bronze Medallions awarded in 1893. In 1894, 334 medallions and certificates were awarded and in 1897 1,174 were issued, in the United Kingdom.⁷

The Diploma award was instituted in 1896 and is still the highest lifesaving award of the Society. Diplomas issued from 1896 to the end of 1911 totalled 74, with 4 from Australia and 30 awarded to women.⁸

On the 2nd March 1905 His Majesty Edward VII granted the use of the title 'Royal'; thus the name changed to The Royal Life Saving Society.

⁵ Sachs, F. (1912). *The Complete Swimmer*. p115.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Pearsall, R. (1991). *Lifesaving: The Story of The RLSS-The First 100 years*. p16.

⁸ Sachs, F. (1912). *The Complete Swimmer*. p121.

William Henry toured promoting the Society's work and sometimes examining candidates for the Bronze Medallion and Certificates of the Society. He not only travelled extensively to all parts of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales but toured the world promoting the Society. The first Branch was formed in Manchester 1894, the same year the New South Wales Branch was formed. Henry visited Sweden (1898), Italy (1901), Germany & Austria (1902), Canary Islands (1908), Canada & the United States (1909), Australia & New Zealand (1910-11) and South Africa (1913). William Henry was an energetic man that led the Society from 1891 to his death in 1928, and no doubt laid the foundation for the modern Society of today.

The Society's awards gained each year, throughout the world, was well over 10,000. The awards diminished during the First World War, but quickly exceeded 20,000 per annum in the early 1920s and by 1931 had exceeded 75,000 per annum. The 1930s saw the production of the Society's first promotional film.⁹ Today, over 700,000 awards per year are gained in Australia alone.

24th February 1892 saw the establishment of the first lifesaving class in Australia by the Wentworth Swimming Club. The New South Wales Branch was formed in 1894; one of the first two branches formed under the authority of the newly established Life Saving Society. In 1899, a Life Saving Brigade was formed at Manly, Sydney. Daylight bathing restrictions on Sydney beaches were lifted in 1903.

Other states and territories Branches followed:

Victoria	1903;	Queensland	1905;
South Australia	1909;	Tasmania	1915;
Western Australia	1924;	Northern Territory	1965; and
Australian Capital Territory	1975.		



Supplemental Charter with Seal

(Source: RLSS Commonwealth)

A letter from the Home Office, dated the 19th July 1924, advised the Charter of Incorporation was granted to The Royal Life Saving Society. The Charter was dated the 14th July 1924.

The first lifesaving manual, suited to Australian conditions, was published in 1953, under the name 'The Australian Life Saving Society – *Manual of Modern Life Saving Methods*'. With mediation under the Commonwealth President, Lord Mountbatten, the new NSW group writing the new manual came back under the 'Royal' banner and future editions were published under 'The Royal Life Saving Society Australia', with the first edition in 1957. Stimulated by the NSW group demand for autonomy, a Commonwealth Council was formed in 1959 with five separate, but closely co-operating branches: London; Australia; Canada; New Zealand; and South Africa.

Due to the re-organisation of the Society Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, on the 27th January 1960, granted a supplemental Charter of Incorporation creating the new Commonwealth organisation with five National Branches: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

⁹ Pearsall, R. (1991). Lifesaving: The Story of The RLSS-The First 100 years. p29.

Motto, Badge and Crown

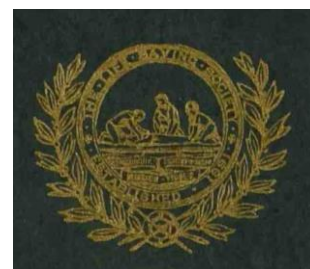
Motto

The Society's motto "*Quemcunque Miserum Videris Hominem Scias*" (Whomsoever you see in distress, recognise in him a fellow man) was adapted from a quotation from Seneca, a Roman philosopher who lived between 4BC to 65AD. The earliest known use of the motto, in its Latin form, was on a Society letter to William Wilson (a swimming instructor from Glasgow and first Life Governor of the Society), dated 8th September 1892.¹⁰ It was also used in the Society's first Annual Report of 1893.

Badge



The Society's badge, shown at left, has been with us for well over 100 years. It can be seen at the bottom of the old logo, at right, from the Society's 1904 Annual Report. It wasn't until 1931 that the Society sort to gain protection of its badge and name by Order in Council pursuant to the Chartered Associations Act of 1926. The badge was described as circles representing a lifebuoy



and containing within the circles the words 'Royal Life Saving Society' and having superimposed thereon a crossed boat-hook and oar tied in the centre by a triple bow. The College of Arms objected to the description being a representation of a lifebuoy as it deemed to constitute a definite heraldic device which approximate to the crest and badges of certain families; namely Wallace and Reid. The Society agreed to change the wording to an inner and outer circle and on the 17th December 1931 His Majesty granted an Order in Council whereby the name, 'The Royal Life Saving Society', and badges made of any material whatsoever, bearing, or consisting of, the device of an inner and outer circle, and containing within such circles the words 'Royal Life Saving Society' and having superimposed thereon a crossed boat-hook and oar tied in the centre with a triple bow, whether or not the device is accompanied by other decoration or lettering are protected. No colouring was specified in the Order.

St Edward's Crown

The proposal for the use of the Crown was first put forward by Canada and Australia. The 'E.R.' file notes at the time stated "... in view of the very close connection between the Royal Family and the Society and of the interest which The Queen takes in its activities throughout the Commonwealth, she would be agreeable to ... giving permission to the Society to use the Crown...".

On the 27th February 1964 the Home Office advised the Grand President, Lord Mountbatten, The Queen approved the use of the St Edward's Crown "... by the United Kingdom Branch of the Royal Life Saving Society and by the Commonwealth Council of a badge which includes the Royal Crown for use on notepaper and envelopes, handbooks and other published material, and as the lapel badge worn by the officers of the Society and Council". The Crown had been, for a number of years, used by the Society on its Diploma award and worn on personal clothing. Her Majesty relaxed the established practice of not wearing the crown on personal clothing, for not only the Diploma award but also the Distinction award.

Justice Sir Percy Joske, the Society's Australian President wrote to Lord Mountbatten on the 2nd April 1964 advising steps will be taken to obtain similar privilege in Australia, for use of the crown.

¹⁰ Love, C. (2008). *A Social History of Swimming in England, 1800-1918*. p113.

The Bronze Medallion History

The Bronze Medallion award made up the majority of the Society's awards in the first eighty to one hundred years. With new award structures and new awards in recent times the Bronze Medallion still records high participation rates of the Society awards and also is still an award that is held in high esteem and the one true award that denotes a true lifesaver.

The Early Bronze Medallion

The Balmain Swimming Club in Sydney recorded 88 candidates in 1892, 207 in 1893 and 334 in 1894 passed the Society's examination and gained their Bronze Medallion. Twenty-four candidates were women.¹¹

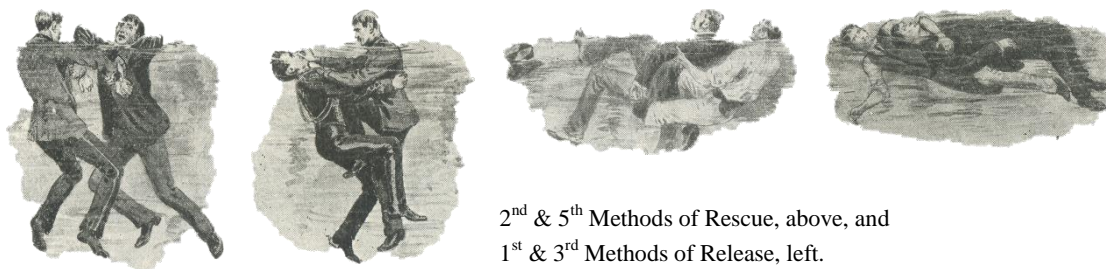
The examination for the 'proficiency medal', as the Bronze Medallion was then called, required the candidate to be able to swim and attend at least ten meetings of a class of instruction. The subjects of the examination were: a) Knowledge of the contents of the Society's handbook; b) Efficiency in the drills for rescue and releasing one's self from the clutch of a drowning person to be demonstrated on land and in the water; and c) Resuscitation and then treatment after natural breathing has been restored.¹²

The land drill of the training squad was carried out as per the British Army's *Infantry Drill Book*. There were four rescue methods and three release methods.

1900 to 1950

The Bronze Medallion was initially referred to as the 'Proficiency Medal' then 'The Proficiency Bronze Medallion'. The name changed to the 'Bronze Medallion', and was first recorded as such in the Society's eleventh edition of its *Handbook of Instruction*, in 1910.

The Bronze Medallion award examination curriculum had changed little, except for another method of rescue (the fifth) and the replacement of the Silvester method of resuscitation with the Schafer method of resuscitation, which was adopted by the Society in 1907. Four methods of rescue was only required however, for the examination. The theory part of the test was restricted to Parts I (Rescue and Releases) and II (Resuscitation) of the Handbook. Patients had to be towed at least 20 yards and candidates were required to demonstrate a dive from the surface of the water for an object on the bottom of the water. Also the candidates had to be over 15 years of age and hold the Proficiency Certificate. The eighteenth edition (1931) of the *Handbook of Instruction* stated the candidate's age must be over 14 years of age.



2nd & 5th Methods of Rescue, above, and
1st & 3rd Methods of Release, left.

(Source: 1908, 10th edition of RLSS Handbook)

¹¹ Swimming. (10.04.1895) Referee, Sydney. p7.

¹² Sinclair, A., & Henry, W. (1893). Swimming. p217.

The twentieth edition (1937) of the handbook was issued five years after the nineteenth edition and included a swim for the Bronze Medallion test, for the first time. The swim was a distance of 100 yards breaststroke followed by 50 yards backstroke (without the use of arms). Also the surface dive, in the examination, had depth range of five to six feet and a requirement to bring the object recovered back to land by the first method of rescue.

In 1946, the twenty-first edition of the handbook still had the five rescue and three release methods. Rescues were named: 'when not struggling' (first method); 'the arm grip' (second method); 'arms difficult to hold' (third method); 'help with passive' (fourth method); 'rescue by use of side stroke' (fifth method). A sixth rescue method was added; the 'unigrip' method, used as another carry with the rescuer using sidestroke and having the ability to restrain the patient, if necessary. Also, another release method was added. The releases were: 'held by the wrists' (first method); 'held by the neck' (second method); 'clutched round the body and arms' (third method); and 'clutched round the body from behind' (fourth method). The candidate had to demonstrate the 'unigrip' method of rescue with a 20 yard carry, incorporating 'restraint' techniques in the carry. The swim test had increased to 150 yards breaststroke and 150 yards backstroke (without the use of arms). Also various rescues and releases were combined.

1951 to 1981

The twenty-second edition of the handbook in 1955 saw the resuscitation method change from Schafer to the Holger-Nielsen method. Also, the number of rescues decreased from six to five, with the omission of the 'rescue by use of sidestroke' (the previous fifth method).

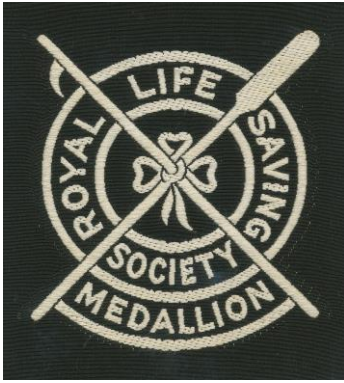
The Society's first Australian edition (1955) was similar to London's twenty-second edition. However, the Australian edition added the 'rescue by use of side stroke' and another technique for the 'clutched around the body and arms' release.

Also, the age condition for the Bronze Medallion was reduced from over 14 years, in the London edition, to over 13 years of age in the Australian edition. Otherwise the examination conditions were similar.

A milestone was achieved in 1957 with the publication of the first 'true' Australian edition of the Society in Australia: *Modern Manual of Water Safety and Life-Saving*. This was an excellent publication with many black and white photos, detailed descriptions of rescues and releases and an enlarged water safety section. Water skills continued to be part of the Bronze Cross and higher awards examination requirements.

This new edition included methods of approaching the patient, so as to avoid the necessity of having to release oneself from the patient's grip. Rescue tows were the hip, hair, chin, clothing, tied-swimmer and double-patient carries. The manual also discussed the removal of patients from the water. Releases were hit & turn, front body and rear body. The Society's standard method of artificial respiration was the Holger Nielsen Method. Other methods were also taught; such as the Kohlrausch, Silvester and Rickard methods.

The 1962 edition lowered the Bronze Medallion age to at least 12 years of age, provided methods of entering the water (safe jump, shallow header and dive) and decreased the time limit for the 440 yard swim from not exceeding 15 minutes to not exceeding 13 minutes. Expired air resuscitation (EAR), external cardiac compression (ECC) and mechanical equipment was included in this edition.



The very next edition in 1963 increased the Bronze Medallion age to at least 13 years of age. The only other major difference was removing the Holger Nielsen method of resuscitation.

The next few years saw little change with the contents of the manuals. The 1969 edition saw the introduction of expired air resuscitation in water, for the Bronze Medallion examination.

The first major change was within the sixth edition of the manual in 1976, now called *Manual of Water Safety and Life-Saving* (since 1963). The Intermediate Star changed its name to the Bronze Star. The distance swim for the Bronze Medallion changed from 440 yards to 400 metres. The most important change was the use of non-contact rescues in the tests of the Bronze Medallion; such as clothing and rope, to pull the patient to safety. These rescue methods however, were included in prior editions, from 1957, as part of the water safety and survival section. Support with the use of aids, rescues with the use of aids and defensive techniques, to protect the rescuer, were also added to the 1976 edition.

The 1976 edition also was the first to exclude manual resuscitation and only include resuscitation as known today; EAR, ECC and CPR. The use of resuscitation flow charts was included for the first time. The Bronze Medallion theory examination included all sections of the manual; such as personal water safety, survival, assist tows and assessment of rescue situations.

1982 to 2000s

The issue of the first edition of the *Swimming & Life Saving*, in 1982, was the start of the most exciting time of the award structure and delivery thereof for the Society in Australia. The manual was a larger book with coloured sections, to easily find the required section. Surf Life Saving Australia (name changed from Surf Life Saving Association of Australia in 1991) first used this approach in their thirty-second edition in 2003.

A teacher-based progressive assessment within the new Swim and Survive awards, Teacher of Lifesaving Award, Dry Rescue, Basic Rescue and Home Pool Safety were a number of new awards included in this edition. The Bronze Cross was removed from the award scheme, with the Award of Merit being the next award above the Bronze Medallion. Water skills were still in the manual as a part of the Award of Merit and Distinction examinations, but referred to as 'synchronised swimming figures'. At the lower end of degree of difficulty was sculling and body position which were considered necessary to assist the lifesaver to a greater awareness of balance, proficiency in control of the body in the water and improvement in propulsive efficiency.

The Bronze Medallion, in this first edition, saw a major overhaul, with the introduction of six specialist categories. They were: Bronze Medallion (general); Pool Bronze Medallion; Patrol Bronze Medallion; Canoe Bronze Medallion; Boating Bronze Medallion; and Sub-Aqua Bronze Medallion.

The age requirement, for the Bronze Medallion, was increased to not be less than 15 years of age. The examination was made up of a theory test (including self-preservation, water rescue safety, victim recognition and assessment, use of bystanders, emergency care and resuscitation), resuscitation test and water test. The water test did not include a timed swim; however, there was a 3 minutes and 15 seconds

time limit on a 50 metre approach and 50 metre tow of a simulated unconscious patient. Surface dives were performed in approximately two metres of water. For the first time there were initiative rescue scenarios, after which the rescuer was required to explain the reasons for their actions. Also, for the first time in the Bronze Medallion examination, was the demonstration of the vice grip for immobilisation of a spinal injury, and the resuscitation test of the Bronze Medallion was the successful completion of the conditions of the Resuscitation Award, or providing evidence of having obtained this award within the last six months (later increased to twelve months).

Rescues were the accompanied tow, non-contact tow, assisted tow and contact tow. The common contact tows were the head tow and armpit tow. Other tows were clothing tow, hair tow, double shoulder tow and cross chest tow. Defensive and escape techniques were similar to the previous manual, as were releases: escape from front grasp; escape from rear grasp; escape from a wrist grip; and escape from a leg grip.

Five years later, in 1987, the second edition of the *Swimming & Lifesaving* manual was published. The Bronze Medallion was reduced to one category, the Bronze Cross award was re-introduced, an Oxygen equipment award was established and a Lifeguard strand was introduced. Synchronised swimming figures were renamed water skills and reduced to eleven types.



The new Lifeguard strand included Patrol Bronze Star, Patrol Lifeguard, Pool Lifeguard and Advanced Lifeguard. The Bronze Medallion was a prerequisite to the Patrol Lifeguard and Pool Lifeguard awards. Prior to 1987 the Bronze Medallion was the requirement for employment, in Australia, as a pool lifeguard.

Rescues and releases were similar to the previous edition. For the first time abbreviations were used as a reference to resuscitation; the ABC (airway, breathing and circulation) of resuscitation.

The Bronze Medallion age was changed again; reduced to a minimum 14 years of age or in the year the candidate turns 14. This minimum age condition is the same in New Zealand. In Canada however, the age is a minimum of 13 years. The previous United Kingdom Bronze Medallion, which ceased in 2013, age condition was 14 years. The United Kingdom's equivalent award now would be the Silver Medallion within their Survive and Save Program.

Conditions of the examination were similar to the first edition. A 400 metre swim (100 front crawl, 100 backstroke, 100 sidestroke and final 100 metres on the front) was re-introduced with a time limit of 13 minutes. Also search & rescue demonstration and survival skills demonstration (such as wearing a personal floatation device and sculling for one minute, while being clothed) were a part of the water test.

For the first time, sections of the examination were classified into 'instructor assessed items', 'optional items' (with the examiner selecting the required number to examine for each award) and 'examiner assessed items'.

There was little change to the Bronze Medallion award conditions in the next editions (third edition in 1995 to the sixth edition reprinted in 2014).

Proficiency Medals

The predominant function of the Royal Life Saving Society has always been to reduce drowning via a number of activities, including equipping individuals in the techniques of water safety, water survival and lifesaving skills.

Standards and levels have been established and individuals attaining these standards, by successful examination and in later years by a combination of instructor and examiner (now called assessor) assessment, gain certain awards. Several awards are medallic in nature.

These standards and levels were similar across the Commonwealth until the late 1950s / early 1960s. The first 'true' all-Australian manual of the Society in Australia was published in 1957, suited to the Australian conditions.

The award system continually improved and expanded with exceptional publications, leading to on-line training. Awards such as infant aquatics, lifeguarding, pool operations and workplace & vocational level awards being added to the international standard of the Society's awards in Australia.

Other countries also, have revised their awards since the 1960s. The Bronze Medallion is still a part of the Society's award structure in Australia, as well as other countries including Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and New Zealand.

Medals were put out to contract to find the best price. They were supplied by Ansley (1895 to 1900), Voughton (1900 to 1910) and J A Wylie (1910 to 1920s). Bronze Medallions were supplied in red boxes and the Award of Merit in green boxes. Medals supplied in boxes were phased out by the late 1940s.

The ribbon of the Royal Life Saving Society is its colours – light blue with a narrow centre white stripe with narrow dark blue stripes on either side. The early ribbons, from their introduction in 1932 to the early 1960s came in two widths – 1¼ inches (3.81cm) and 5/8 of an inch (1.59cm). Ribbon widths did vary throughout the Commonwealth, with modern ribbons being approximately 3cm and 1.5cm in size.

Ribbons were not issued with the medal initially, but were issued with a suspender bar bearing the letters 'R.L.S.S.', with the first bar. Prior to 1932 however, it appears to have been common practice, when mounted to wear, to use a 1 inch or 1¼ inch dark blue ribbon



Not all awards have medals issued, but they all have certificates issued. Patches and enamel badges were available, at extra cost for some awards, to successful candidates. The certificates design have varied considerably over the years, as have the medals.

To describe these different medal patterns the descriptions are presented chronologically.

Bronze Medallion - 1892

The Bronze Medallion, instituted in 1892, requires proficiency in basic life saving and artificial resuscitation and is designed to demonstrate that the recipients have the necessary skills to effect body contact rescue. The successful candidates are recognised as having gained the minimum standard as a qualified lifesaver.

In 1932, a bar system was introduced for holders of the Bronze Medallion to maintain their proficiency by means of subsequent re-examination. Up to the end of 1964 bars were issued in bronze bearing the date of re-qualification, with the exception of the fifth bar which was in silver and blue enamel and the tenth bar which was in gold and blue enamel. The issue of these fifth and tenth bars was discounted in 1957. By the 1960s, in Australia, the bar was titled 'B.M.B.', denoting Bronze Medallion Bar. Bars were removed from the awards with the issue of the 3rd *Swimming & Lifesaving* manual in 1995. The Bronze Medallion was replaced by the Silver Medallion in the United Kingdom circa 2013.



A)	First design	1892 to 1904 – The Life Saving Society
	Medal	Bronze, circular, 32.5mm diameter, 3mm thick, with claw and ring suspension.
	Obverse	Rescuer (on the left) towing a patient, by use of the ‘second method of rescue’ (used to tow a struggling patient, by holding the arms out from the patient’s side) with heads and arms above water line. Around the outer edge the words: ‘ <i>The Life Saving Society * Established 1891 *</i> ’.
	Reverse	The words ‘ <i>Awarded to</i> ’ in the centre and space for the recipient’s name. Around the outer edge the words: ‘ <i>Quemcunque Miserum Videris Hominem Scias *</i> ’ (the Society’s Motto). Single border ring, inside wording.
	Notes	Dates were not initially engraved on the back of the medal. Some early medals had been gilded.



B)	Second design	1905 to circa 1914 – The Royal Life Saving Society
	Medal	Bronze, circular, 32.5mm diameter, 3mm thick, with claw and ring suspension.
	Obverse	As per first design, but with most of the arms below the water line. Around the outer edge the words: ' <i>The Royal Life Saving Society * Established 1891 *</i> '. A smaller star however, to the first design.
	Reverse	As per first design.
	Notes	Society was granted the use of the title 'Royal' on the 2 nd March 1905.



C)	Third design	circa 1914 to circa 1924
	Medal	Bronze, circular, 30mm diameter, 2.5mm thick, with claw and ring suspension or with fixed ring suspension.
	Obverse	<p><u>Type A</u> - Rescuer towing a patient, by use of the 'first method of rescue' (used to tow passive patients who could lie on their back, by holding their head) with heads and arms above water line.</p> <p>Around the outer edge the words: 'The Royal Life Saving Society Established 1891' (with no star).</p> <p><u>Type B</u> - Rescuer towing a patient, by use of the 'first method of rescue' with heads and lower arm above water line.</p> <p>Change in shoreline.</p> <p>Around the outer edge the words: 'The Royal Life Saving Society * Established 1891 *'.</p>
	Reverse	<p><u>Type A</u> - As per first design, but no star('*') between first and last word.</p> <p><u>Type B</u> - As per first design.</p>
	Notes	Some Bronze Medallions also were supplied with no suspension ring. From 1918 the suspension ring became smaller and flat to the medal. This may have been because of the First World War. Some medals were 31mm in diameter.



D)	Fourth design	circa 1924 to 1929
	Medal	Bronze, circular, 30mm diameter, 2.5mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
	Obverse	As per Third design (Type B), with the bodies of the rescuer and patient visible, and 'The' removed from the Society's name. Change in shoreline.
	Reverse	As per first design.
	Notes	Some medal designs were issued with a milled rim. In the late 1920s the Bronze Medallions were incorrectly produced. As shown at right, the word 'Life' was incorrectly spelt 'Lipe'. This was corrected within a year or two with all medallions after October 1928 correctly produced.



E)	Fifth design	1930 to 1937
	Medal	Bronze, circular, 33mm diameter, 3mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
	Obverse	As per fourth design. <u>Type A</u> - Around the outer edge has dots ('•') between the words. The date 1891 has an 'I' in place of '1'-'1891I'. Some patients have left arm missing. Some have larger font for 'LI' in 'Established'. <u>Type B</u> - Around the outer edge has stars ('*') between the words. Most of this type of medals issued with a milled rim.
	Reverse	As per first design, but star ('*') replaced by a cross ('+') between the first and last word. Double border ring, inside wording.
	Notes	Some medals were 32.5mm diameter and 2.5mm thick.



F)	Sixth design	1938 to 1957
	Medal	Bronze, circular, 33mm diameter, 2.5mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
	Obverse	The Society's Badge. Around the edge the words: ' <i>Quemcunque Miserum Videris Hominem Scias +</i> ' (the Society's Motto).
	Reverse	The words ' <i>Awarded to</i> ' in the centre and space for the recipient's name and date. Around the outer edge the words: ' <i>Royal Life Saving Society * Established 1891 *</i> '. Double border ring, inside wording.
	Notes	During the Second World War due to a shortage of metal, awards, including the Bronze Medallion, were replaced by certificates. After the war medals were issued for the 1940s Bronze Medallions upon submission of certificates to the Society. Some are still being issued to this day. In 1942 the suspension ring was again attached flat to the medallion. →



G)	Seventh design	1958 to circa 1980s
	Medal	Bronze, circular, 25mm to 25.3mm diameter, 1.7mm to 2mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
	Obverse	As per sixth design, with two types of backgrounds.
	Reverse	Plain for the recipient's name and date.
	Notes	A small number of medals, in the 1960s and 1970s were 27mm in diameter. The background on the obverse became plan over time.



H)	Eighth design	1982 to 1986
	Medal	Bronze, circular, 25mm diameter, 1.5mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
	Obverse	Rescuer (on the right for the first time) towing a patient, by use of a non-contact tow, with both the bodies of the rescuer and patient visible. Around the outer edge the words: ' <i>Royal Life Saving Society – Australia-</i> '.
	Reverse	Plain for the recipient's name and date, to be engraved by the recipient.



I)	Ninth design	1987 to circa 1990s
	Medal	Bronze, circular, 28mm diameter, 2mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
	Obverse	As per sixth design with Crown added and words removed from Badge. Motto replaced with: <i>'Royal Life Saving Society – Australia • Bronze Medallion •'</i> .
	Reverse	As per eighth design.



Medal dated 7.12.1990

J)	Tenth design	circa 1990s/2000s to current
	Medal	Bronze, circular, 33.9mm diameter, 1.95mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
	Obverse	As per sixth design, with highlighted background around lettering. Ends of triple bow are now flat.
	Reverse	As per eighth design.
	Notes	Western Australia Branch produces their own medal with same design, 34mm diameter, 2.1mm thick, but with a plain background.



Bronze produced by RLSS-Western Australia

Speciality Bronze Medallions

A) With Surf Line – circa 1920s to circa 1930s

This Bronze was instituted early last century and required candidates to pass a swim test and reel & line drill as set out in the handbook of the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia.

Medal	Bronze, circular, 30mm diameter, 2.5mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
Obverse	As for fourth design of the standard Bronze Medallion.
Reverse	The words ' <i>Awarded to</i> ' in the centre and space for the recipient's name and date. Around the outer edge the words: ' <i>For Life Saving Skill + With Surf Line+</i> '.



B) Reel & Line Bronze Medallion – circa 1940s to 1981

In December 1924, an agreement was reached between the Society and the Surf Association, in Australia, whereby Surf would be responsible for ocean beaches and the Society for all other waterways. After the 1924 agreement the Society in Australia focused on water safety, education and rescue training for non-surf beaches. Also, as per this agreement the Society was not to use the word ‘surf’ and thus changed their ‘with surf line’ Bronze Medallion to a Reel & Line Bronze Medallion.

The first mention of this award in a Society handbook was in the first edition, in 1957, of the *Modern Manual of Water Safety and Life-Saving*. A bar system was introduced, at this time, for holders of the Reel & Line Bronze Medallion to maintain their proficiency by means of subsequent re-examination.



Medal	Bronze, circular, 26.3mm diameter, 1.8mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
Obverse	Reel person (number 3 of a 6 person squad) standing over a reel and line, with line extended and right hand on brake. Around the outer edge the words: ‘Royal Life Saving Society * Established 1891 *’.
Reverse	Plain for the recipient’s name and date.
Notes	This award was replaced by the Patrol Bronze Medallion (“Version 1”).



C) Sub-Aqua Bronze Medallion – 1976 to 1986

Medal	Bronze, circular, 25.3mm diameter, 1.5mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
Obverse	Scuba diver rescuing another scuba diver, with the appearance of being underwater. Around the outer edge the words: ' <i>Royal Life Saving Society – Sub Aqua-</i> '.
Reverse	Plain for the recipient's name and date.
Notes	With the review of the Society awards this award ceased in 1986.



D) Other Speciality Bronze Medallions – 1982 to 1986

The new Speciality Bronze Medallions, issued in 1982, were:

Boating Bronze Medallion;

Canoe Bronze Medallion;

Patrol Bronze Medallion (“Version 1”);

Pool Bronze Medallion; and

Continuing of the Sub-Aqua Bronze Medallion (A Sub-Aqua Bronze Star was also available).

Tests were designed specific to each environment.

These awards lasted until the publication of the next manual in 1987. At this time the Pool Lifeguard, Advanced Lifeguard, Patrol Bronze Star and Patrol Lifeguard replaced the prior speciality Bronze Medallions.

Medal	Bronze, circular, 25.4mm diameter, 1.6mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
Obverse	Image depicting the activity of the speciality Bronze award. Around the outer edge the words: ‘Royal Life Saving Society – Australia-’.
Reverse	Plain for the recipient’s name and date.
Notes	With the review of the Society awards these awards ceased in 1986.



Boating Bronze Medallion



Patrol Bronze Medallion



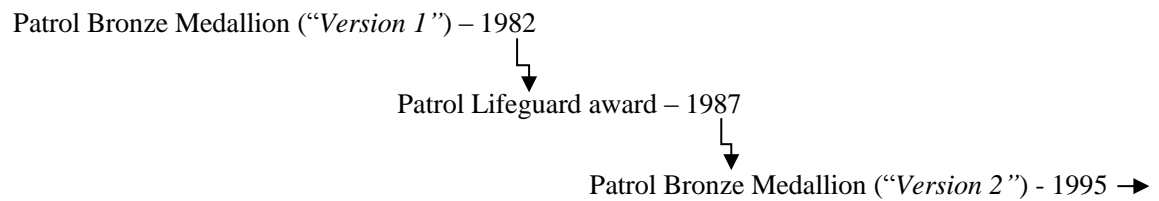
Pool Bronze Medallion

E) Patrol Bronze Medallion (Version 2) – 1995 to current

In 1982 the Reel and Line Bronze Medallion was replaced by the Patrol Bronze Medallion (“*Version 1*”). With the review of the awards the Patrol Bronze Medallion (“*Version 1*”) was replaced by the Patrol Bronze Star (with no medal) and Patrol Lifeguard (with no medal) award in 1987.

The Patrol Lifeguard was then replaced by the Patrol Bronze Medallion (“*Version 2*”) (certificate only supplied) in 1995. The Patrol Bronze Star (certificate only supplied) still continues to this day.

Summary of Patrol award history:



ALSS Bronze Medallion – 1953 to 1956

In the early days all Australian Royal awards had to be submitted to London for approval. After the Second World War a ‘new guard’ and ‘old guard’ were forming within the Society’s New South Wales executive. A deep division developed due to the perceived need to have autonomy from London and to have Australian award conditions. When the Australian Life Saving Society was formed, in 1950, only three NSW clubs elected to stay with RLSS-NSW. The new association’s first aim was to write an Australian manual. The first lifesaving manual, ‘*Manual of Modern Life Saving Methods*’, suited to Australian conditions, was published in 1953, under the name ‘The Australian Life Saving Society’. Although called the Australian Life Saving Society, its activities were restricted to New South Wales. With mediation under the Commonwealth President, Lord Mountbatten, the new NSW group writing the new manual came back under the ‘Royal’ banner, in November 1956, and future editions were published under ‘The Royal Life Saving Society Australia’, with the first edition, ‘*Modern Manual of Water Safety & Life-Saving*’, in 1957.



Medal	Bronze, circular, 33.5mm diameter, 2mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
Obverse	Lifebuoy with shape of Australia in the centre, and the Commonwealth of Australia Coat of Arms atop. Leafs surrounding the lifebuoy.
Reverse	The words ‘ <i>Awarded to</i> ’ in the centre and space for the recipient’s name and date. Around the outer edge the words: ‘ <i>Bronze Medallion * A.L.S.S. *</i> ’. A rope type inner boarder, inside wording.



Diploma - 1896

The Diploma ('DipRLSS') was instituted in 1896 and is still the highest lifesaving award of the Society today. Successful recipients receive a certificate and a gold medal for candidates receiving 70% or higher passing mark. By the middle of last century a certificate and enamel badge were supplied to successful candidates.

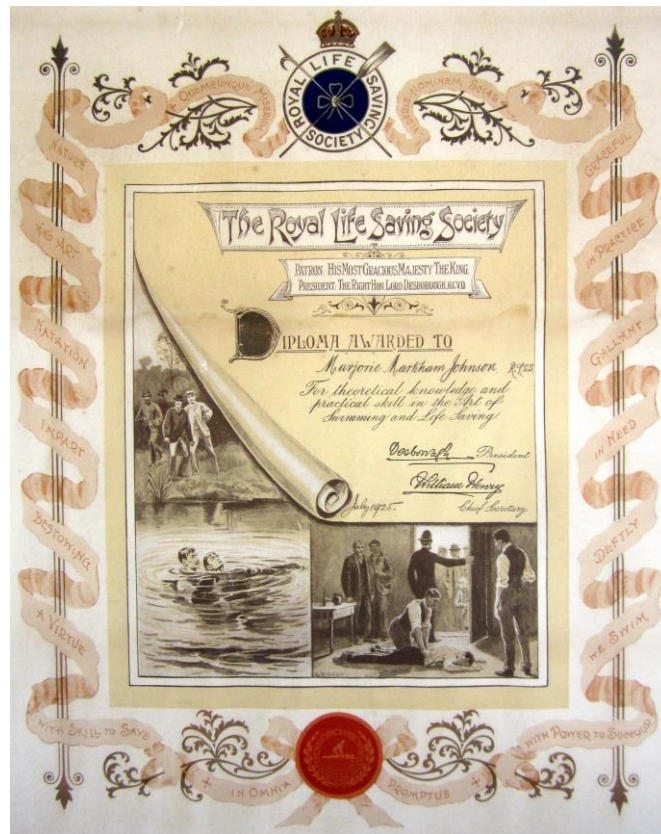


Circa 1930



1993

The initial examination was a combination of up to a 4,000 word paper discussing six topics plus an extensive practical test. The discussion paper was later replaced by a supervised theory examination. A Diploma with Honours was achieved by the submission of a successful thesis. In 1987 the Diploma changed with candidates required to gain 100 points from six modules. From 2004 the Diploma requirement was the successful completion of a research project.



1925 Diploma

Award of Merit – 1908

Due to the level of skill required for successful completion of the Diploma award, the Award of Merit was instituted in 1908 as an intermediate step between the Bronze Medallion and Diploma award. In 1908, the tenth edition of the Society's *Handbook of Instruction* listed the following awards, in order of difficulty: Elementary Certificate; Proficiency Certificate; The Proficiency Bronze Medallion; The Teacher's Certificate; Honorary Instructor's Certificate; The Award of Merit; and Diploma. The Award of Merit required candidates to perform with skill, sensitivity and understanding to develop advanced rescue and judgement skills.

In 1935, a bar system was introduced for holders of the Award of Merit to maintain their proficiency by means of subsequent re-examination. Up to the end of 1964 bars were issued with the first bar being a suspender one in gilt and blue enamel with the letters 'R.L.S.S.' on the front and the year in raised numbers on the back. Second and subsequent bars were in blue enamel with the year on the front in gilt. In 1964, the practice of issuing the suspender bar with the date of the first re-qualification on the back was discontinued and bars were issued numbered. By the late 1960s, in Australia, the bar was titled 'A.M.B.', denoting Award of Merit Bar. Bars were removed from the awards with the issue of the 3rd *Swimming & Lifesaving* manual in 1995. The Award of Merit ceased in the United Kingdom by 2013.



A)	First design	1908 to circa 1919
	Medal	Silver, circular, 28.7mm diameter, 2.1 to 2.5mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
	Obverse	<p>Rescuer (on the right) dressed towing a patient, by use of the 'second method of rescue' (used to tow a struggling patient, by holding the arms out from the patient's side) with heads above water line and bodies of the rescuer and patient visible.</p> <p>Around the outer edge the words: 'The Royal Life Saving Society' above and 'The Award of Merit' below.</p>
	Reverse	<p>A female figure seated and holding a laurel wreath over an expanse of water, with setting sun in the background.</p> <p>A scroll at the middle and lower of the medal with the words 'Awarded to' and a space for the name of the recipient and date of award.</p>
	Notes	<p>The medal has no rim.</p> <p>Made in Birmingham - 0.925 sterling silver.</p>



B)	Second design	circa 1919 to circa 1930
	Medal	Silver, circular, 27mm diameter, 2.5mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
	Obverse	As per first design, but the rescuer and patient are undressed and patient's legs at slightly different leg positions
	Reverse	As per first design, but female figure, leaning forward with bent arm, has slightly different proportions and drapery.
	Notes	The medal has no rim. Made in Birmingham - 0.925 sterling silver.

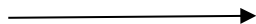



C)	Third design	circa 1930 to circa 1937
	Medal	Silver, circular, 32.2mm diameter, 2mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
	Obverse	As per second design, but the outer edge of the medal is formed by a wreath which encircles the whole award.
	Reverse	As per second design, but the outer edge of the medal is formed by a wreath which encircles the whole award.
	Notes	Made in Birmingham - 0.925 sterling silver.



D)	Fourth design	circa 1937 to 1946
	Medal	Silver, circular, 32mm diameter, 2mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
	Obverse	The Society's Badge. Between the lower handles of the boat hook and oar are the words: ' <i>Award of Merit</i> '. The outer edge of the medal is formed by a wreath which encircles the whole award.
	Reverse	The words ' <i>Awarded to</i> ' in the centre and space for the recipient's name and date. Around the edge the words: ' <i>Quemcumque Miserum Videris Hominem Scias +</i> ' (the Society's Motto). The outer edge of the medal is formed by a wreath which encircles the whole award.
	Notes	Made in Birmingham - 0.925 sterling silver.



E)	Fifth design	1947 to 1956	
	Medal	Gilt and enamel, circular, 32mm diameter, 2mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.	
	Obverse	As per fourth design, but in blue and white enamel on a gilt ground.	
	Reverse	As per fourth design.	
	Notes	Some early 1950s medals had the suspension ring attached flat to the medallion.  Some earlier medals were 2.3mm thick, while some later medals were 33.4mm in diameter.	



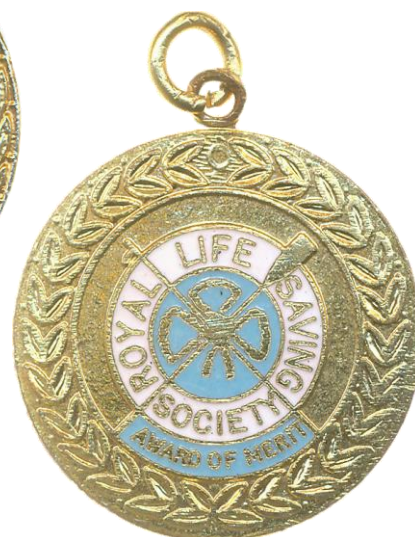
F)	Sixth design	1957 to current
	Medal	Gilt and enamel, circular, 25mm to 25.6mm diameter, 1.5mm to 1.9mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
	Obverse	As per fifth design.
	Reverse	Plain for the recipient's name and date. From the 1980s engraving name and date was the responsibility of the recipient.



1957



1965



1974

Bronze Cross - 1945

The Bronze Cross was instituted in 1945 as an intermediate step between the Bronze Medallion and Award of Merit. In 1946, the twenty-first edition of the Society's *Handbook of Instruction* listed the following awards, in order of difficulty: Elementary Certificate; Unigrip Rescue Certificate; Intermediate Certificate; Bronze Medallion; Bar to Bronze Medallion; Bronze Cross; Instructor's Certificate; Award of Merit; Bar to Award of Merit; and Diploma. The Bronze Cross required candidates to further develop the level of judgement, technique and physical ability required to carry out water rescues.

In 1949, a bar system was introduced for holders of the Bronze Cross to maintain their proficiency by means of subsequent re-examination. Up to 1964 bars were issued with the first bar being a suspender one in bronze with the letters 'R.L.S.S.' on the front. The date bars were issued in bronze and yellow. In 1969 the colour of the enamel for bars reverted back to yellow and the bar was titled 'B.C.B.' denoting Bronze Cross Bar. Bars were removed from the awards with the issue of the 3rd *Swimming & Lifesaving* manual in 1995.

The Bronze Cross, in Australia, was removed from the award system between 1981 and 1987.



A)	First design	1945 to 1956
	Medal	Bronze, cross pattée, 40mm diameter, 2.5mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
	Obverse	The Society's Badge within a wreath. The arms of the cross spread from this wreath. The upper arm of the cross carries the word 'Bronze', whilst the lower carries the word 'Cross'.
	Reverse	Plain for the recipient's name and date.



B)	Second design	1957 to circa 1980s
	Medal	Bronze, cross pattée, 27mm diameter, 1.7mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
	Obverse	As per first design.
	Reverse	As per first design.
	Notes	In 1958 the arms of the cross become considerably narrower. Some medals were 28mm diameter and 1.8mm thick.



C)	Third design	1987 to circa 1990s
	Medal	Bronze, cross pattée, 27.6mm diameter, 2mm thick with fixed ring suspension.
	Obverse	The Society's Badge with Crown added and words removed from badge. Words around badge: <i>'Royal Life Saving Society – Australia • Bronze Cross •'</i> .
	Reverse	Plain for the recipient's name and date, to be engraved by the recipient.
	Notes	Cross fatter and smaller supported by inserts (background) between crosses.



Medal dated 7.12.1990

D)	Fourth design	circa 1990s/2000s to current
	Medal	Bronze, cross pattée, 39.1mm diameter, 2.2mm thick with fixed ring suspension.
	Obverse	As per first design. Ends of triple bow are now flat.
	Reverse	As per third design.



Distinction Award - 1952

The Distinction Award was instituted in 1952 as an intermediate step between the Award of Merit and the Diploma of the Society. Certificate and enamel badge are provided to the successful candidates.



The Award of Distinction is an award providing the opportunity for continuous striving for excellence and maturity of response to emergency situations. This is the highest level award requiring the completion of theory, resuscitation and water tests.



Bronze Star - 1952

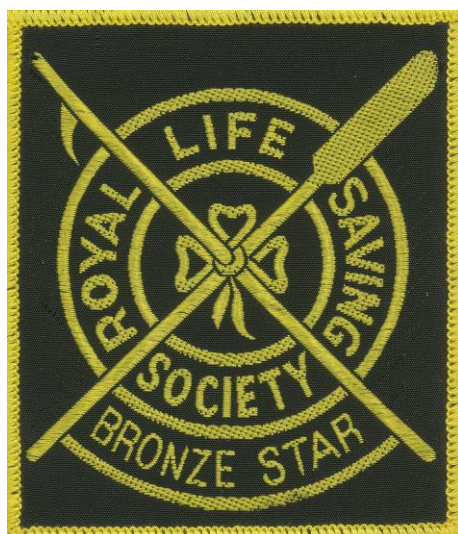
The Intermediate Star was instituted, only in Australia, in 1952 as the lowest level award to have a medal issued on successful completion. The four lower awards, at the time, were certificate awards. These awards, listed in order of difficulty were: Resuscitation Certificate; Unigrip Rescue Certificate; and Intermediate Certificate. The next award following the Intermediate Star is the Bronze Medallion. The Bronze Star develops skills and knowledge of safe water rescue and survival.

A Bar system was introduced in 1963.

New Zealand instituted the Intermediate Star award in 1964, patterned after the Australian award.

The Intermediate Star and Bar to Intermediate Star names changed, in 1976, to Bronze Star and Bar to Bronze Star.

Bars were removed from the awards with the issue of the 3rd *Swimming & Lifesaving* manual in 1995.



A)	First design	1952 to 1962 – Intermediate Star
	Medal	Bronze, star shaped, 30mm diameter, 2.5mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
	Obverse	The Society’s Badge in the centre, within a circle. Around the Society’s Badge the words: ‘ <i>The Intermediate Star</i> ’. This circle rests upon a six pointed star, the points of which protrude slightly from a circular background. On the background and between each of the points of the star are the abbreviated names of each state.
	Reverse	Plain for the recipient’s name and date.



B)	Second design	1963 to 1975 – Intermediate Star
	Medal	Bronze, star shaped, 22.8mm diameter, 1.7mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
	Obverse	As per first design.
	Reverse	As per first design.
	Notes	Simpler ring suspension design, as compared to the first design.



C)	Third design	1976 to circa 1980s – Bronze Star
	Medal	Bronze, star shaped, 23mm diameter, 1.7mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
	Obverse	As per first design. The words <i>'The Intermediate Star'</i> replaced by <i>'The Bronze Star'</i>
	Reverse	As per first design.



Medal dated 29 April 1983

D)	Fourth design	1982 to 1986
	Medal	Bronze, star shaped, 23mm diameter, 1.8mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
	Obverse	Rescuer (on the right) approaching a patient, by use of a non-contact tow with both the bodies of the rescuer and patient visible. Around the outer edge the words: ' <i>Royal Life Saving Society – Australia-</i> '.
	Reverse	Plain for the recipient's name and date, to be engraved by the recipient.



E)	Fifth design	1987 to circa 1990s
	Medal	Bronze, star shaped, 23.7mm diameter, 2mm thick with fixed ring suspension.
	Obverse	As per third design with Crown added and words removed from badge. Words around badge: <i>'Royal Life Saving Society – Australia • Bronze Star •'</i> .
	Reverse	As per fourth design.



F)	Sixth design	circa 1990s/2000s to current
	Medal	Bronze, star shaped, 31.5mm diameter, 2.2mm thick with fixed ring suspension.
	Obverse	As per third design with two mainland territories added to the abbreviated names of each state. Ends of triple bow are now flat.
	Reverse	As per fourth design.



Grey Medallion – 2010

Initiated in 2010, with the release of the 6th edition of the *Swimming & Lifesaving* manual, the Grey Medallion program is a water safety and lifesaving skills initiative for older adults. It aims to encourage a healthy, independent and active lifestyle through the development of essential skills in order to participate in aquatic recreation activities safely.

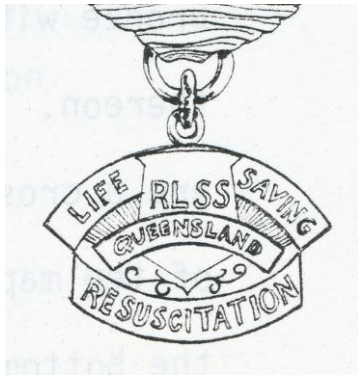
This practical program provides older adults with personal survival techniques, improved swimming skills, skills to deal with emergency situations and a thorough understanding of water safety knowledge in order to reduce the likelihood of drowning.

A certificate with optional lapel pin, 20.1mm diameter, 1.4mm thick, is issued to successful candidates.



Miscellaneous Medals

Many other medals have been issued over the history of the Society and supplied by various Society Branches especially for competition, such as the United Kingdom's 1925 Competition Medal (below right) and the Queensland's Resuscitation medal (below left).



Other short lived competition medals have been the Competition Medal for pupil teachers (1892 to circa 1914), Competition Medal-Shafer (1st part of the twentieth century) and the King Edward VII Medal (1902-1921), to name a few.

Medals have been issued for special events, such as the Singapore and Malaysian Tour Medal to commemorate the 1967 delegation from Hong Kong that toured Singapore and Malaysia to promote goodwill and support the Society programs in these areas.

Commemorative bronze medals have also been a part of the Society's history, including the 1991 limited edition celebrating the Society's 100th anniversary, which was available to successful candidates of the Bronze Medallion in 1991, and the commemorative medal in 2000 to mark the millennium.

Australia struck a commemorative medal, in 1994, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Society in Australia.



Actual size shown

Experiments performing EAR and CPR on volunteers not only occurred in the United States, but other countries also had similar experiments. At the University of Sydney twelve Royal and Surf Life Saving volunteers in 1959 were injected with a lethal dose of a refined form of curare, a natural poison from a jungle vine, that paralysis the breathing muscles, to stimulate drowning. Methods of both manual and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation were tried on the volunteers to measure and compare the real effects of resuscitation. EAR (expired air resuscitation) was the clear winner.

In 2009 The Royal Life Saving Society Australia presented each volunteer with “The Breath of Life Medal” as a tribute medal of esteem, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the clinical experiment. The volunteers were; Owen P Leonard, Arthur Stephens, Ina L Arthur, Lancelot B Dawson, Allan G Simpson, Kenneth C Breyley, Laurence F Smith, Thomas E Howard, Laurence S Slattery, Dulcie M English, Alfred B Heyer and Lesley M Wasley.



The Commonwealth President and National Branch Presidents wear a badge of office, peculiar to each country, which are usually worn around the neck from a ribbon in the colours of the society.

It is not the purpose of this book to present competition, past or present, or special purpose medals, or badges (as shown below) in any detail.



Awards of the Society in Australia

Awards of the Society as per the Society’s 2010 (2014 reprint) sixth edition *Swimming & Lifesaving* manual are made up of the following programs:

- **Swim and Survive Program-**
 - Wonder Award 1
 - Wonder Award 2 Courage Award 1
 - Wonder Award 3 Courage Award 2 Active Award D1-Dev. Water Discovery
 - Courage Award 3 Active Award 1-Water Discovery
 - Courage Award 4 Active Award D2-Dev. Water Awareness
 - Courage Award 5 Active Award 2-Water Awareness
 - Active Award D3-Dev. Water Sense
 - Active Award 3-Water Sense
 - Active Award 4-Water Wise
 - Active Award 5-Jnr Swim & Survive
 - Active Award 6-Swim & Survive
 - Active Award 7-Snr Swim & Survive
 - Water Smart;

- **Lifesaving Program-**
 - Dry Rescue
 - Wade Rescue
 - Accompanied Rescue Bronze Star*
 - Patrol Bronze Star
 - Bronze Medallion*
 - Patrol Bronze Medallion
 - Bronze Cross* Award of Merit*
 - Distinction;

- Grey Medallion;
- The Diploma; and
- **Workplace and Vocational Program-**
 - Junior Instructor Resus. Awareness (V) Lifeguard-Bronze Med.(V) Pool Operation(V)
 - Instructor Resuscitation (V) Pool Lifeguard (V)
 - Aquatic Instructor (V) Oxygen Resus. (V) Adv. Pool Lifeguard (V)
 - Resus. Instructor Oxygen Equip. (V)
 - Teacher of Lifesaving First Aid (V)

(V – These awards have a vocational, education and training outcome)


* Denotes medal awards (Bronze Star; Bronze Medallion; Bronze Cross; and Award of Merit).

Australian Bravery Awards

The Australian Society's Bravery Awards acknowledge and applaud acts of bravery in the field of Lifesaving. The Bravery Awards consist of the following: Australian Resuscitation Medal and Club; President's Certificate of Commendation; Rescue Medal; and Bravery Cross. Certificates and rescue citations are presented, along with the medals, for three of the four awards.

Australian Resuscitation Medal and Club

This award is for any person in the community who attempts to save a life by performing CPR – under any circumstances, in any location, and regardless of eventual outcome.

- | | | |
|---------|--|---|
| Medal | Gilt, circular, 49.6mm diameter, 4mm thick.
A non-wearing medal.
A circular lapel pin, 22mm diameter, 1.3mm thick, is also supplied. |  |
| Obverse | Badge of the Society with Crown.
At the bottom edge the words: 'Australian Resuscitation Club'. | |
| Reverse | Image of a person performing rescue breathing on a child.
Space below the image for recipient's name and date.
At the top edge the words: 'Corpus in Vitam Reducere' translated as 'to bring the body back into life'.
At the bottom edge the words: 'Royal Life Saving Society – Australia'. | |



Rescue Medal

The Rescue Medal is awarded to a person who undertakes a rescue or attempted rescue in an aquatic environment under extreme or difficult circumstances.

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Medal | <p>Silver, circular, 38.7mm diameter, 2.4mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.</p> <p>Miniature medal is 20.6mm diameter and 1.6mm thick.</p> <p>The Society's ribbon (32.5mm wide, miniature 15.5mm wide) attached with suspender bar bearing the letters 'R.L.S.S.A.', in silver.</p> |
| Obverse | <p>Rescuer towing a patient, by use of the early 20th century 'first method of rescue' (used to tow passive patients who could lie on their back, by holding their head) with bodies of the rescuer and patient visible.</p> <p>Under the rescue image the words: 'Rescue Medal'.</p> <p>Around the edge the words: 'The Royal Life Saving Society • Australia •'.</p> |
| Reverse | <p>Carry the words: 'Rescue Medal Awarded to for undertaking a rescue under extreme or difficult circumstances. Presented on by The Royal Life Saving Society Australia'.</p> <p>Miniature medal is plain.</p> |



Bravery Cross

The Bravery Cross is awarded to a person who undertakes a rescue or attempted rescue in an aquatic environment under circumstances that endanger the life of the rescuer.

Medal	Brushed gold, cross pattée, 43.2mm diameter, 2.5mm thick, with fixed ring suspension. Miniature medal is 21mm diameter and 1.8mm thick. The Society's ribbon (32.5mm wide, miniature 15.5mm wide) attached with suspender bar bearing the letters 'R.L.S.S.A.', in brushed gold.
Obverse	The Society's Badge within a wreath. The arms of the cross spread from this wreath. The upper arm of the cross carries the St Edward's Crown, whilst the lower arm of the cross carries the words: ' <i>Bravery Cross</i> '.
Reverse	Plain for the recipient's name and date.



Australian Honour Awards

Honours are not only provided by the Australian National Branch of the Society but also by some State Branches, with past examples below.



This section only lists the National Branch Honours provided to members of the Australian Society. During the 1985-86 season the Australian National Branch approved a restructuring of the Australian Honours. Prior to this the only Australian Honour was the Australian Meritorious Service Medal. The following Honours acknowledge the invaluable contributions of time, effort and dedication given by its many members:

Honours available for Individuals - Volunteers

Certificate of Thanks

Associate

Fellow ('FRLSSA')

Companion ('CRLSSA')

Australian Meritorious Service Medal ('AMSM')

Life Member ('LMRLSSA')

Life Governor ('LGRLSSA')

Honours available for Organisations

Certificate of Thanks

Australian President's Award

Honours available for Staff Members/Professional Officers

Australian Service Order ('ASO')

Australian Long Service Order

Australian Meritorious Service Order

Australian Outstanding Service Order

All Honours are presented with an appropriate certificate. Medals are also supplied with the Australian Meritorious Service Medal, Life Member and Life Governor. Lapel Pins are supplied for Service Orders.

Australian Meritorious Service Medal - 1960

Instituted in 1960, the Medal is awarded for sterling and meritorious service, with a minimum of fifteen years of service to the Society in Australia.

A) First Design 1960 to circa 1970s

Medal Gilt and enamel, circular, 42mm diameter, with hook and ring suspension.
The Society's ribbon attached with suspender bar, in blue enamel, bearing the letters 'R.L.S.S.' in gilt.
A gilt Crown is attached to the ribbon above the medal.

Obverse The Society's Badge in the centre, within a circle.
Around the Society's Badge the words: '*Meritorious Service •Australia •*'.
This circle rests upon a six point star, the points of which protrude from a circular background. On the background and between each of the points of the stars are the abbreviated names of each state.
The whole being surrounded by a three quarter circle of oak leaves, open at the top.

Reverse Plain for the recipient's name and date.



B) Second Design circa 1970s to current

- Medal Gilt and enamel, circular, 40.5mm diameter, 3.1mm thick, with hook and ring suspension.
 Miniature medal is 21.1mm diameter and 2mm thick.
 The Society's ribbon (32.5mm wide, miniature 15.5mm wide) attached with suspender bar, in blue enamel, bearing the letters 'R.L.S.S.' in gilt.
 A gilt Crown is attached to the ribbon above the medal.
- Obverse As per first design.
- Reverse As per first design.
- Notes Black ribbon behind medal, suspended from the suspender bar.
 Miniature medal only recently supplied.



Life Member - 1985

A Life Member Honour is available to persons who have rendered outstanding service, with a minimum of eighteen years of service to the Society in Australia.

Medal	<p>Gilt and enamel, circular, 37.8mm diameter, 1.5mm thick with hook and ring suspension.</p> <p>Miniature medal is 20.8mm diameter and 1.3mm thick.</p> <p>The Society's ribbon (38mm wide, miniature 15.5mm wide) attached with suspender bar, in blue enamel, bearing the letters 'R.L.S.S.A.' in gilt.</p> <p>A gilt Crown is attached to the ribbon above the medal.</p>
Obverse	<p>The Society's Badge with Crown added and words removed from badge.</p> <p>Words around Badge: <i>'The Royal Life Saving Society Australia'</i>, and the whole being surrounded by a three quarter circle of oak leaves, open at the top.</p> <p>The words at the bottom set upon the oak leaves: <i>'Life Member'</i>.</p>
Reverse	<p>Plain for the recipient's name and date.</p>
Notes	<p>A circular lapel pin, 20.8mm diameter, 1.6mm thick, is also supplied.</p> <p>Miniature medal and lapel pin only recently supplied.</p>



Life Governor - 1985

A Life Governor must be exemplary representatives of the Society and contributed in a substantial and measurable way to the Society's mission, with a minimum of twenty-two years of service to the Society in Australia.

Medal	<p>Gilt and enamel, circular, 37.3mm diameter, 1.5mm thick with hook and ring suspension.</p> <p>Miniature medal is 20.6mm diameter and 1.5mm thick.</p> <p>The Society's ribbon (38mm wide, miniature 15.5mm wide) attached with suspender bar, in blue enamel, bearing the letters 'R.L.S.S.A.' in gilt.</p> <p>A gilt Crown is attached to the ribbon above the medal.</p>
Obverse	<p>The Society's Badge with Crown added and words removed from badge.</p> <p>Words around Badge: '<i>Royal Life Saving Society - Australia</i>', and the whole being surrounded by a full circle of oak leaves.</p> <p>The words at the bottom set below the oak leaves: '<i>Life Governor</i>'.</p>
Reverse	<p>Plain for the recipient's name and date.</p>
Notes	<p>A circular lapel pin, 20.6mm diameter, 1.6mm thick, is also supplied.</p> <p>Miniature medal and lapel pin only recently supplied.</p>



Service Order - 1985

This Honour recognises dedicated service by a professional officer or member of staff.

Lapel pins are provided, and are circular, 25.5mm diameter and 1.2mm to 1.5mm thick.

Australian Service Order



Australian Long Service Order



Australian Meritorious Service Order



Australian Outstanding Service Order



Commonwealth Bravery Awards

The Society's Bravery Awards acknowledge and applaud acts of bravery in the field of Lifesaving. The Bravery Awards consist of the following: HRH Prince Michael of Kent Certificate of Merit (Bravery); The Mountbatten Medal; and The Russell Medal. Certificates are presented for all awards with non-wearable medals for the Mountbatten and Russell Medals.

The Mountbatten Medal - 1951

The Mountbatten Medal was instituted in 1951 by the Society's then Grand President, The Earl of Mountbatten of Burma and its annual award is made for the most gallant rescue or rescue attempt undertaken in the each calendar year by an individual who has taken Royal Life Saving Society training, or holds or has held a lifesaving award delivered by a Member Branch. The rescue or rescue attempt must be made by a citizen from a Commonwealth Nation but can be in any country throughout the world.



The silver medal is 51mm in diameter, with the obverse depicting the family crest of Lord Mountbatten.

The Russell Medal - 2000

Following the tragic death of Pat Russell in March 2000, her family and the RLSS UK Warwickshire Branch informed the Society that they would like to fund the introduction of a permanent memorial to Pat Russell in the form of an annual Medal. It was suggested that the criteria for the award of the Medal should be that it be given to a person 18 years or younger, who during the previous calendar year had carried out the most outstanding resuscitation or attempted resuscitation of a person. The individual nominated for the award must have taken Royal Life Saving Society training, or holds or has held a lifesaving award delivered by a Member Branch. The Commonwealth Council at that time agreed to accept the kind offer from the Russell family and the Warwickshire Branch, and recommended that the medal would be known as "The Russell Medal" which was agreed by all parties.



Commonwealth Honour Awards

The Society acknowledges the invaluable contributions of time, effort and dedication given by its many members around the Commonwealth and in order to recognise outstanding contributions, the following Commonwealth Honours are awarded to individuals and organisations:

Honours available for Individuals - Volunteers

Certificate of Thanks
Commonwealth Headquarters Commendation
Service Commendation
Service Medal
Bar to Service Medal
Service Cross
Bar to Service Cross
Commonwealth Honorary Life Member
Commonwealth Honorary Life Governor
Commonwealth Vice President

Honours available for Organisations

Certificate of Thanks
Commonwealth President's Award

Honours available for Staff Members/Professional Officers

Commonwealth Service Order

Awards available for Service

King Edward VII Cup
HRH Prince Michael of Kent Certificate of Merit (Service)
Commonwealth Young Lifesaver of the Year

All Honours are presented with an appropriate certificate. Medals are also supplied with the Service Medal, Bar to Service Medal, Service Cross, Bar to Service Cross, Honorary Life Member, Honorary Life Governor and Honorary Vice President.



Bar to Service Medal



Bar to Service Cross

Service Cross - 1906

The Service Cross was originally named Distinguished Service Medal, and provided for outstanding service as a volunteer, with a minimum of twelve years of service.

- A) First Design 1906 to 1940 – Distinguished Service Medal
- Medal Silver and enamel, circular, 28mm diameter, with fixed ring suspension.
The Society's ribbon attached with suspender bar bearing the letters 'R.L.S.S.' in silver.
Further citations (Bars) indicated by bronze, silver or gold stars worn on the ribbon.
- Obverse In the centre the words: *'For Distinguished Service in promoting the objects of the Society'*, in blue enamel.
Words around the edge: *The Royal Life Saving Society – Labour – Omnia – Vincit'*.
- Reverse A female figure seated and holding a laurel wreath over an expanse of water, with setting sun in the background.
A scroll at the middle and lower of the medal with the words *'Awarded to'* and a space for the name of the recipient and date of award.
- Notes Approximately 200 awarded in this period.



B) Second Design 1941 to circa 1980s – Service Cross

- Medal** Gilt and enamel, St Andrew's cross, 37mm diameter, 1.9mm thick with fixed ring suspension.
The Society's ribbon (31mm wide) attached with suspender bar, in white enamel, bearing the letters 'R.L.S.S.' in gilt.
Further citations (Bars) carry the year in white on a gilt ground.
- Obverse** A St Andrew's cross formed by the Society's Badge on a gilt ground, with a white enamel circle upon which the boat hook and oar are superimposed, with St Edward's Crown atop.
Space above the Society's Badge has the word 'Service' and the lower space has the word 'Cross', upon a blue enamel ground.
- Reverse** Plain for the recipient's name and date.
- Notes** From 1964 the St Edward's crown was added to the top of the medal and the suspension ring attached to the top of the crown.



1981



1989

C)	Third Design	circa 1990s to current
	Medal	Gilt and enamel, St Andrew's cross, St Edward's crown atop, 35.5mm diameter, 2.2mm to 2.5mm thick, with fixed ring suspension. Blue with gold strip ribbon (31mm wide) attached with suspender bar, in red enamel, bearing the letters 'R.L.S.S.' in gilt. Further citations (Bars) carry the year in gilt on a red enamel ground.
	Obverse	A St Andrew's cross formed by the Society's Badge on a gilt ground, with a red enamel circle and white enamel centre upon which the boat hook and oar are superimposed, with St Edward's Crown atop. Space below the Society's Badge has the words 'Service Cross', upon a red enamel ground.
	Reverse	Plain for the recipient's name and date.



Service Medal - 1937

Instituted in 1937, the Service Medal was originally named the Recognition Badge and available to active volunteers with a minimum of four years' service.

A)	First Design	1937 to circa 1990s – Recognition Badge
	Medal	Silver and enamel, irregular circular shape, 27mm diameter, 1.9mm thick with fixed ring suspension. The Society's ribbon (31mm wide) attached with suspender bar, in green enamel, bearing the letters 'R.L.S.S.' in silver. Further citations (Bars) carry the year in silver on a green ground, then in green on a silver ground.
	Obverse	The Society's Badge with a white circle and a blue centre, with St Edward's Crown atop. The whole is surrounded by a wreath in green with a scroll at the bottom in blue, with the words: <i>'For Service Rendered'</i> .
	Reverse	The words: <i>'Awarded to For Services Rendered to the Royal Life Saving Society'</i> .
	Notes	From 1964 the St Edward's crown was added to the top of the medal and the suspension ring attached to the Crown.



B) Second Design circa 1990s to current – Service Medal

- Medal Silver and enamel, St Andrew's cross, St Edward's crown atop, 35.5mm diameter, 2mm thick, with fixed ring suspension.
Blue with light blue strip ribbon (31mm wide) attached with suspender bar, in dark blue enamel, bearing the letters 'R.L.S.S.' in silver.
Further citations (Bars) carry the year in silver on a dark blue enamel ground.
- Obverse A St Andrew's cross formed by the Society's Badge on a silver ground, with a dark blue enamel circle and white enamel centre upon which the boat hook and oar are superimposed, with St Edward's Crown atop.
Space below the Society's Badge has the words 'Service Medal', upon a dark blue enamel ground
- Reverse Plain for the recipient's name and date



Life Member

A Life Member Honour is available to persons who have rendered outstanding service, with a minimum of twenty years of service to the Society.

Medal	Gilt and enamel, circular, 31.65mm diameter, 1.9mm thick, with fixed ring suspension. Blue with light blue strip ribbon (31mm wide) attached with suspender bar, in dark blue enamel, bearing the letters 'RLSS Honorary Life member' in gilt.
Obverse	The Society's Badge, in gilt, with a white enamel circle and blue enamel centre, with St Edward's Crown atop.
Reverse	Plain for the recipient's name and date
Notes	A circular lapel pin, 22.4mm diameter, 1.7mm thick, is also supplied.



Life Governor

A Life Governor must be exemplary representatives of the Society and contributed in a substantial and measurable way to the Society's mission, with a minimum of twenty-four years of service to the Society.

Medal	Gilt and enamel, circular, 31.65mm diameter, 1.9mm thick, with fixed ring suspension. Blue with light blue strip ribbon (31mm wide) attached with suspender bar, in dark blue enamel, bearing the letters ' <i>RLSS Honorary Life Governor</i> ' in gilt.
Obverse	The Society's Badge, in gilt, with a white enamel circle and blue enamel centre, with St Edward's Crown atop.
Reverse	Plain for the recipient's name and date
Notes	A circular lapel pin, 22.4mm diameter, 1.7mm thick, is also supplied.



Vice President

This is the Society's highest honour and is available to individuals who have given outstanding and exemplary service to the Society over a long period of time, with a minimum of twenty-eight years of service.

Medal	Gilt and enamel, circular, 31.65mm diameter, 1.9mm thick, with fixed ring suspension. Blue with light blue strip ribbon (31mm wide) attached with suspender bar, in dark blue enamel, bearing the letters 'RLSS Honorary Vice President' in gilt.
Obverse	The Society's Badge, in gilt, with a white enamel circle and blue enamel centre, with St Edward's Crown atop.
Reverse	Plain for the recipient's name and date
Notes	A circular lapel pin, 22.4mm diameter, 1.7mm thick, is also supplied.



As a final note, most of the proficiency and other medals, dealt with in this book, are not usually worn, although on appropriate occasions Honour Medals, and other awards, are worn. Wearing of these medals on the right breast is the approved method.

Condensed Timeline-RLSS

- 11 May 1889 Report by sub-committee of the Amateur Swimming Association on the need for lifesaving instruction.
- 3 Jan. 1891 First meeting ('informal') held to discuss the formation of a society dedicated to aquatic lifesaving. Founding of The Swimmers' Life Saving Society. A committee is formed to draft the rules of the Society.
- 7 Feb. 1891 First set of rules adopted at the first general meeting and William Henry & Archibald Sinclair named Joint Chief Secretaries.
- 25 May 1891 First public lecture on lifesaving held at the Polytechnic Institute, London.
- c. Nov. 1891 Name change to Life Saving Society.
- 1891 First edition of the *Handbook of Instruction* is published.
- 1892 The Life Saving Society holds close to 100 public lectures and demonstrations about lifesaving and its rescue methods during the year.
- 1892 The Bronze Medallion is instituted as The Society's first lifesaving award.
- 1892 86 awards gained (first year).
- 1893 HRH the Duke of York (later King George V) becomes first President.
- 1894 First branch formed in England at Manchester.
- 31 Jan. 1894 First Australian branch formed in New South Wales.
- 1894 334 Bronze Medallions 7 Certificates are earned in the United Kingdom.
- 1896 The Diploma instituted; still the highest lifesaving award of the Society.
- 1896 802 awards gained.
- 1901 King Edward VII becomes Patron.
- 1901 2,029 awards gained.
- 6 Dec. 1904 Branched established in Victoria.
- March 1905 Granted permission to use the title 'Royal', but no formal title conferred.
- 24 Oct. 1905 Branch established in Queensland.
- 1906 Distinguished Service Medal is instituted to recognise volunteers, later replaced by Service Cross in 1941.
- 1906 6,226 awards gained.
- 1908 The Award of Merit instituted.
- 1909 Branch established in South Australia.
- 1909 First edition of SLSA's *The Australian Surf Life Saving Handbook*.
- 1910 HRH King George V consents to become Patron.
- 1910 SLSA Surf Bronze Medallion introduced
- 1910 Lord Desborough becomes President (Acting since 1901), remains so until his death in 1944.

- 1911 12,753 awards gained.
- 1915 Branch established in Tasmania.
- 1916 11,074 awards gained.
- 1919 First Australian conference of state branches.
- 1921 20,689 awards gained.
- 14 July 1924 Formal Royal Charter of Incorporation granted by King George V.
- 1924 Honorary Life Member and Honorary Governor are instituted.
- 1924 Branch established in Western Australia.
- 1924 Dual system of lifesaving established between Surf Life Saving Association, Australia (being responsible for ocean surf beaches) and Royal Life Saving Society –Australia (responsible for all other still water locations).
- 10 Dec. 1925 Australian Federal Council created.
- 1926 37,985 awards gained.
- 1931 75,370 awards gained.
- 1932 Bar to Bronze Medallion instituted.
- 1935 Bar to Award of Merit instituted.
- 1935 Resuscitation Award instituted.
- 1936 95,776 awards gained.
- 1936 Sea Water Diploma instituted.
- 1937 HRH King George VI consented to become Patron of The Society.
- 1937 HRH Princess Elizabeth gained the Elementary Certificate.
- 1938 Total of 105,710 awards issued to successful candidates.
- June 1938 HRH Princess Elizabeth gained the Intermediate Certificate.
- 1939 HRH Princess Margaret gained the Elementary Certificate.
- 1941 90,099 awards gained.
- 1944 HRH Princess Elizabeth consents to become Vice Patron of The Society.
- 1945 Lord Louis Mountbatten of Burma becomes President.
- 1945 Bronze Cross instituted.
- 1946 Lifeguard Proficiency instituted (to circa 1967)
- 1946 82,928 awards gained.
- 1951 108,784 awards gained.
- 1952 HRH Queen Elizabeth II consented to become Patron of The Society.
- 1952 The Distinction Award instituted.

- 1953 Breakaway group, Australian Life Saving Society (Sydney based), publishes *Manual of Modern Life Saving Methods*.
- 1954 Complete self-government granted to Australia.
- 1955 RLSS-Australia (Melbourne based), publishes first (and only) manual, *Handbook of Instruction*, by using the RLSS 22nd edition.
- 1956 Medal awards and certificates reduced in size due to raising costs.
- 1956 Australian Life Saving Society integrated back into the NSW Branch of RLSS.
- 1957 **157,886 awards gained.**
- 1957 Lord Louis Mountbatten of Burma resigns as President and accepted the office as the first Grand President of The Society.
- 1957 Proposals for the reorganisation of The Society approved by the Council.
- 1957 First edition of RLSS-Australia *Modern Manual of Water Safety and Life-Saving* (1957-1962) is published.
- 1959 Chief Secretary attended meetings of Councils in Australia, Canada and New Zealand (attended South Africa in 1958) to obtain final approval of the draft Supplemental
- 1959 Establishment of RLSS Commonwealth.
- 1959 Establishment of the Australian National Branch.
- 27 Jan. 1960 Queen Elizabeth II grants a supplemental charter, creating the new Commonwealth organisation with five National Branches: Australian, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and United Kingdom.
- 1960 **Awards issued exceeded 200,000.**
- 17 July 1961 First Commonwealth Conference in London.
- 1961 **Total combined awards to date exceeded four million.**
- 1962 Prince Charles gained the Elementary Certificate and Bronze Medallion.
- 1963 First edition of the RLSS-UK *Illustrated Handbook of Life Saving Instruction* published.
- 1963 First edition of RLSS-Australia *Manual of Water Safety and Life-Saving* (1963-1977).
- 1964 **62 Diplomas and 932 Distinction awards gained in the Commonwealth.**
- 1964 Queen Elizabeth II, at Lord Mountbatten's request, approved use of Royal Crown on RLSS-UK logo.
- 1965 Establishment of Northern Territory Branch.
- 1965 First edition of New Zealand's first handbook.
- 1975 Establishment of Australian Capital Territory Branch.
- 1982 First edition of RLSS-Australia manual *Swimming and Life Saving* (1982-current) is published.
- 1982 *Swim & Survive* National Water Safety Program launched.
- 1990s Pool Lifeguard program developed and delivered.

Photo Credits

Thank you to the following who supplied the images and photos:

Page 13	Bronze Medallion	David Browne of RLSS-Ireland
Page 22	Bronze Medallion	RLSS-Queensland
Page 22	Western Australian Bronze	RLSS-Western Australia
Page 24	Reel & Line Bar	John McClelland
Page 26	Two Bronze Medallions	Paul Barry
Page 29	Diploma Certificate	David Browne of RLSS-Ireland
Page 30	Award of Merit Bar	John McClelland
Page 41	Bronze Cross	RLSS-Queensland
Page 49	Bronze Star	RLSS-Queensland
Page 50	Grey Medallion	RLSS-Queensland
Page 51	Qld Resuscitation Medal	Boddington (1983)
Page 52	Tribute Medal	RLSS-Australia
Page 52	Badges	John McClelland
Page 54	Aust Resuscitation Medal	RLSS-Australia
Page 55	Rescue Medal	RLSS-Australia
Page 56	Bravery Cross	RLSS-Australia
Page 57	Two Qld medals	M J Barry family
Page 58	Meritorious Service Medal	Boddington (1983)
Page 59	Meritorious Service Medal	RLSS-Australia
Page 60	Life member Award	RLSS-Australia
Page 61	Life Governor Award	RLSS-Australia
Page 62	Service Orders	RLSS-Australia
Page 63	Bravery Awards	RLSS-Commonwealth
Page 64	Bars	RLSS-Commonwealth
Page 65	Distinguished Service Medal	Boddington (1983)
Page 66	1981 Service Cross	John McClelland
Page 68	1978 Bar	John McClelland
Page 69	Service Medal	Paul Barry
Page 70	Life Member Award	John McClelland
Page 71	Life Governor Award	RLSS-Commonwealth
Page 72	Vice President Award	RLSS-Commonwealth
Back page	RLSSA (Sth Cross) Lapel Pin	Paul Barry

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All measurements within this book are approximate.

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