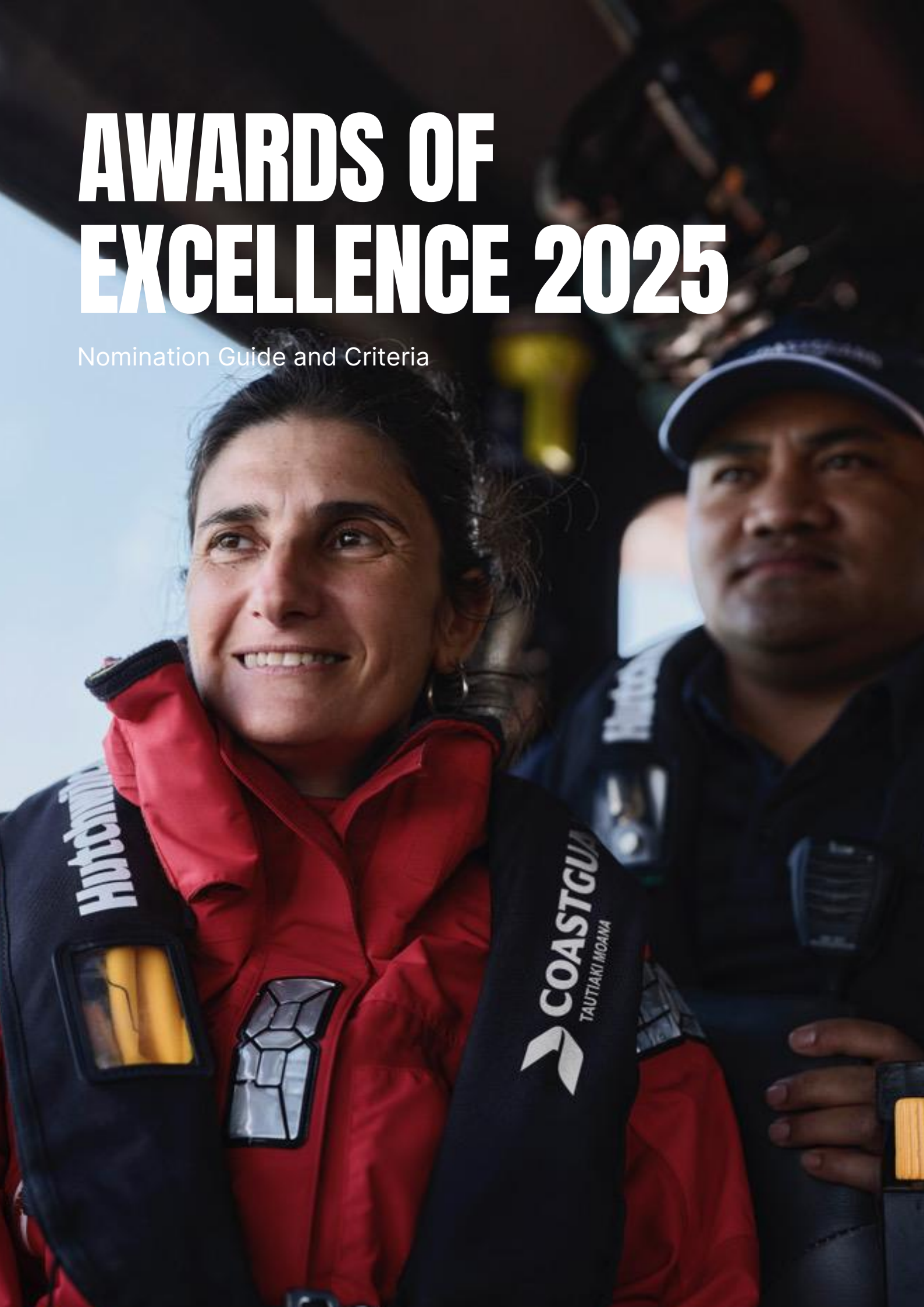
AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE 2025

Nomination Guide and Criteria



Awards of Excellence 2025

Introduction

Coastguard's annual Awards of Excellence are an opportunity to recognise and celebrate volunteers from across Aotearoa for their commitment, dedication, and lifesaving involvement within our organisation.

Category Changes

In 2025, the award categories have been reviewed and updated to provide relevant options and encourage nominations, resulting in the addition of two new categories.

These categories are:

- Operational Crew Member of the Year (individual)
- Unit Innovation Award (unit)

The Air Patrol Volunteer of the Year and Rescue Vessel Volunteer of the Year have been retired and replaced with Operational Crew Member of the Year. Volunteers at Auckland Air Patrol and Northland Air Patrol can now be nominated for the Operational Crew Member of the Year award category.

Nine awards will be presented in 2025. The supreme Volunteer of the Year Award is chosen from the pool of the year's winners of individual awards (Operational Crew Member of the Year, Communications & IMT Volunteer of the Year, Emerging/Young Volunteer of the Year, Outstanding Leadership Contribution, and Unit Support Volunteer of the Year).

Entry Criteria

To be considered for a 2025 Award of Excellence, the volunteer you nominate must:

- Be a current, active volunteer.
- Have made an outstanding contribution to Coastguard in the past 12 months.
- Role model excellent teamwork, operational or role-relevant knowledge, and dedication to the cause.
- Be an exceptional example of a Coastguard volunteer.
- Meet all Award criteria.

You can nominate someone from your Unit or another Unit. Volunteers can be nominated for more than one award if they fit the criteria.

We'd love you to include photos or videos with your submission, a clear, high-quality photo of the nominee or a team photo if it's a group award, helps bring the story to life. You can upload photos, videos, or additional documents in the online nomination form.

Nomination Process

All nominations are required to be submitted through the Coastguard Awards of Excellence website at this link. Prior to submission, we suggest that you gather and have on hand all relevant information and documentation for the nomination.

Key Requirements are:

1. **Understand the criteria**: Familiarise yourself with the eligibility criteria and requirements for the relevant Award. Ensure the nominee meets all the criteria.
2. **Gather information**: Collect detailed information about the nominee's achievements, contributions, and, if relevant, their training, qualifications, and tenure at Coastguard.
3. **Write a compelling narrative**: Craft a clear and compelling narrative that highlights the nominee's accomplishments and their impact. Focus on specific examples and evidence that demonstrate the nominee's excellence and suitability for the award.
4. **Imagery:** Include good quality imagery (eg, 300dpi) in JPEG format. The imagery can be photographs, videos, collateral such as posters, flyers, newsletters, and other supporting documents to help illustrate the nomination for the judges.
5. **Request references**: Obtain letters of recommendation, references, or endorsements from colleagues, peers, the community, or other professionals who can attest to the nominee's qualifications and achievements. Ensure these references are credible and relevant.
6. **Review and edit**: Carefully review and edit the nomination materials to ensure they are free of errors and present the nominee's strengths. Consider seeking feedback from others to improve the quality of the nomination.
7. **Submit on time**: Ensure all nomination materials are submitted by the deadline. Late submissions are often not considered, so plan accordingly to avoid any last-minute issues. **Closing date for nominations is midnight, Sunday 27th July 2025.**
8. **Submission receipt**: Once you have submitted your nomination, you will receive a confirmation email with a copy of the information you submitted.
9. **Nomination review**: All nominations will be reviewed by the relevant Regional team, and during this review, additional information may be requested. The Awards team will be in touch with the Nominator directly.

We request that Nominators (staff, units, and volunteers) provide significant detail, information, and examples of the mahi that their nominee undertakes in the unit or as an individual.

NB: Employees are not eligible for consideration in these volunteer awards. In cases where an individual holds both staff and volunteer roles, they will be classified as staff in the Volunteer Awards process.

Judging Panels

The judging panels are a dynamic trio of a Coastguard staff member, an external judge, and a dedicated volunteer. We bring in external judges who are maritime industry experts and volunteer leaders for each of the nine categories.

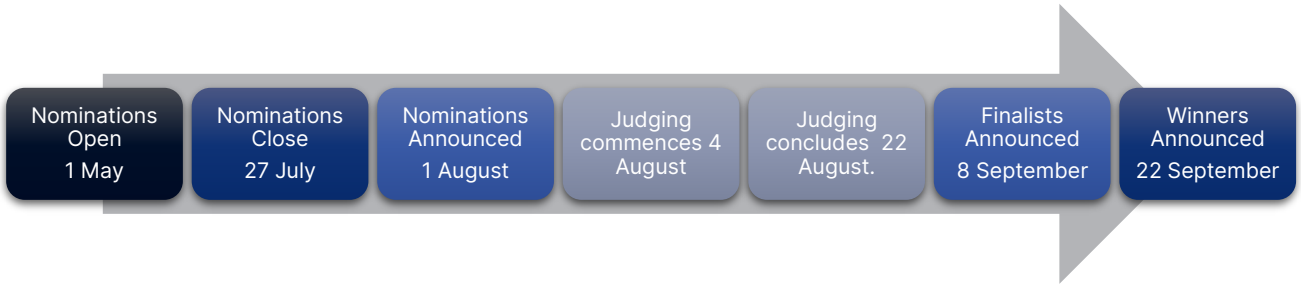
Each panel dives into a specific category, evaluating and ranking three finalists as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Judges meticulously review nominations against the category criteria. After scoring, they gather in a Teams meeting to discuss and select the top three finalists and the ultimate winner for each category.

For the prestigious Supreme Volunteer of the Year Award, category winners are presented to a fresh panel of judges who have not participated in any other award judging. This new panel reviews and scores each nomination based on the award criteria, ensuring a fair and thorough selection process.

Timeline

The refreshed Awards of Excellence website will be ready to accept nominations starting 1 May. This year, we've extended the nomination period, giving you until 27 July to prepare and submit your entries. This provides ample time for volunteers, staff, and units to gather the information and prepare nominations.

Judging will take place throughout August, leading up to the announcement of finalists in September. We'll then move into celebration mode, culminating in the announcement of the winners. The Supreme Volunteer of the Year Award will remain a surprise until all individual category winners have received their awards.



Unit Celebrations

In 2025, Coastguard New Zealand (CNZ) is turning up the excitement with unit celebrations! The Awards team is ready to assist each unit in arranging a fantastic event to honour individual award winners and celebrate the units that have triumphed in their categories.

Winners will be announced on 19 September 2025. Unit Presidents will get the inside scoop before the official announcement. We will ensure each unit has everything they need for a memorable celebration and presentation for both individual and unit award winners.

Our Coastguard Tautiaki Moana CEO and a Board Member will be there to personally present the awards to your unit winners.

The Awards team will reach out in September to chat about how CNZ will support your unit's celebration.

Individual Award Category Criteria

Individual Categories

1. Operational Crew Member of the Year (new award in 2025)
2. Communications/Incident Management Volunteer of the Year
3. Emerging (Young) Volunteer of the Year
4. Outstanding Leadership Award
5. Unit Support Volunteer of the Year

Category 1

Operational Crew Member of the Year

New award in 2025

The Operational Crew Member of the Year award honours an individual who has demonstrated exceptional dedication and performance in their role. This award recognises crew members who have significantly contributed to the operational success of their unit, showcasing outstanding skills, reliability, and a commitment to safety.

It highlights those who have gone above and beyond in their duties, whether through leadership, teamwork, or innovative problem-solving.

Ultimately, this award celebrates the invaluable contributions of operational crew members who ensure the effectiveness and safety of their unit's operations.

Selection Criteria	
1.	**Technical Skills** • *Seamanship Proficiency:* Demonstrate a strong understanding of navigation, boat handling, and maritime safety protocols. • *Emergency Response Training:* Certification in first aid and CPR is required. Additional training in rescue operations or emergency management is advantageous. • *Equipment Familiarity:* Evidence of experience with rescue vessel equipment, including GPS, radios, life support systems, and other safety gear.
2.	**Operational Experience** • *Previous Volunteer Experience:* Demonstrated history of volunteer work in marine environments or rescue operations, including specific roles undertaken and responsibilities managed. • *Teamwork & Leadership:* Provide examples of past teamwork experience, including the ability to work effectively under pressure and within a Search and Rescue structure. Exhibited strong leadership qualities, inspiring and guiding fellow crew members. • *Incident Management:* Documented experience in incident response, including specific incidents managed and outcomes achieved.

3.	**Physical and Mental Fitness** • *Physical Capability:* Evidence of physical fitness suitable for demanding tasks associated with search and rescue operations and the ability to endure harsh marine conditions. • *Mental Resilience:* Ability to maintain composure and make sound decisions during crises. Personal testimonials or evidence of previous high-stress scenarios where decision-making was assessed.
4.	**Commitment to Safety & Training** • *Safety Orientation*: Understanding and commitment to safety protocols and procedures in rescue operations. Applicants should provide details of any safety training participated in. • *Ongoing Training Commitment*: Willingness to participate in regular training exercises and drills to ensure readiness for real-life rescue scenarios. • *Prioritised Safety:* Actively promoted safety protocols and best practices within the unit.
5.	**Community Engagement & Communication** • *Communication Skills:* Proven ability to communicate effectively with diverse groups, including team members, local authorities, and the public, especially in high-stress situations. • *Community Outreach:* Demonstrated involvement in community or volunteer initiatives, showing a commitment to public service and community safety. Fostered positive relationships between the Coastguard and the local community.
	Exemplary Performance • *Outstanding Performance*: Demonstrated outstanding performance in their duties, going beyond the call of duty. • Professionalism: Consistently high levels of professionalism, competence, and reliability.
	Professional Development • *Continuous Improvement:* Pursued continuous professional development, seeking opportunities to enhance skills and knowledge. • *Certifications:* Completed relevant training and certifications, demonstrating a commitment to personal and professional growth.
To be selected as the Operational Crew Member of the Year, nominators must provide comprehensive evidence addressing each of these criteria. By illustrating their contributions and the positive impacts they have made within the unit, they will demonstrate not only their commitment but also their vital role in upholding the mission and values of Coastguard. The nominator will be required to submit relevant documentation, such as certificates, references, and detailed accounts of operational experience to support their nomination.	

Category 2

Communication/Incident Management Volunteer of the Year

The criteria aim to recognise a volunteer's dedication, effectiveness, and impact within the realms of communication and incident management.

	Selection Criteria
1.	**Active Participation in Training Activities** • Demonstrates a commitment to ongoing education by participating in training activities related to communication and incident management. • Evidence of completion of relevant training programmes, certifications, or workshops aimed at enhancing skills in these areas.
2.	**Effectiveness in Communication** • Successfully conveys information clearly and effectively during incidents, ensuring that all team members and stakeholders are adequately informed. • Utilises various communication platforms proficiently to disseminate information during operational incidents.
3.	**Incident Management Contribution** • Actively engages in planning and executing incident response strategies, showing initiative and leadership when addressing emergencies. • Provides valuable insights and feedback in debriefing sessions after incidents to improve future response efforts.
4.	**Team Collaboration** • Works collaboratively with other volunteers and community members, demonstrating teamwork and fostering a positive environment during high-pressure situations. • Acts as a mentor or resource for new volunteers, helping them to navigate communication and incident management challenges.
5.	**Proactive Problem Solving** • Exhibits skill in identifying potential communication gaps or issues during incidents and takes the initiative to address them promptly. • Implements innovative solutions to improve incident management processes and enhance team effectiveness.
6.	**Community Engagement** • Engages with the community to promote awareness and understanding of incident management protocols. • Participates in outreach programmes or activities that enhance the community's preparedness and response capabilities.

7.	**Commitment to Values** • Embodies the core values of the organisation, demonstrating integrity, respect, and a strong ethical commitment in all interactions and incident responses.
8.	**Impact Measurement** • Provides measurable outcomes of their contributions, such as feedback from peers, improvements in response time, or positive community testimonials following incidents.

Category 3

Emerging (Young) Volunteer of the Year

This award aims to acknowledge and celebrate the exceptional efforts of young volunteers making a meaningful difference in their communities.

The award highlights those who have taken on leadership roles, actively participated in community projects, and introduced innovative ideas that enhance volunteer experiences. Additionally, it honours those who demonstrate personal growth, such as learning new skills, taking on more responsibilities, or mentoring newer volunteers.

Selection Criteria	
1.	**Duration of Service** • The nominee must have been a volunteer in the unit for less than five years.
2.	**Age Requirement** • The nominee must be under 30 years of age at the time of nomination.
3.	**Contribution to Activities** The nominee should demonstrate evidence of significant or valuable contributions to activities within the past 12 months. This could include: • Leadership roles in organising events or initiatives. • Active participation in volunteer projects that have positively impacted the community or the unit. • Innovative ideas or programmes initiated that enhanced the volunteer experience or outreach efforts.
4.	**Dedication and Commitment** • The nominee should exhibit a strong commitment to the values and mission of the unit, showing reliability and a willingness to go beyond in their volunteer efforts.

5.	**Teamwork and Collaboration** • The nominee should have a record of working effectively within a team, collaborating with peers, and fostering a positive and inclusive environment.
6.	**Growth and Development** • The nominee should show evidence of personal growth as a volunteer, including new skills learned, increased responsibilities taken on, or mentorship of newer volunteers.
By adhering to these criteria, the award aims to recognise and celebrate the contributions of emerging young volunteers who are making a difference in their communities.	

Category 4

Outstanding Leadership Award

This award recognises exceptional leadership within Coastguard, highlighting individuals who have made significant contributions to their unit over the past 12 months and throughout their tenure as a Coastguard volunteer.

This award seeks to honour those who demonstrate outstanding leadership and significantly elevate the standards and effectiveness of Coastguard.

Selection Criteria	
1.	**Leadership Skills** • Demonstrated ability to lead with vision, integrity, and empathy, fostering a culture of excellence and continuous improvement. • Examples of effective communication, decision-making, and conflict resolution skills that have contributed to the overall success of Coastguard.
2.	**Significant Contributions** • Demonstrated a meaningful impact on unit operations, displaying initiative in safety protocols, training programmes, or community outreach efforts. • Evidence of leadership in critical situations, such as search and rescue missions, that directly benefited the community and enhanced the unit's reputation.
3.	**Team Development** • Proven ability to mentor and support fellow volunteers, fostering a collaborative and encouraging environment. • Examples of implementing training initiatives that have improved team skills and knowledge within the unit.

4.	**Community Engagement** • Active involvement in community events, promoting the mission and values of Coastguard. • Evidence of building partnerships with local organisations or authorities to enhance water safety awareness and education.
5.	**Innovation and Problem-Solving** • Introduction of new ideas or processes that have streamlined operations or improved response times. • Active participation in strategic planning sessions, contributing to the long-term goals of Coastguard.
6.	**Consistency and Dedication** • A record of reliable attendance, participation in training sessions, and commitment to the organisation's values. • Displaying resilience and maintaining a positive attitude, even under pressure.
7.	**Recognition and Impact** • Acknowledgement from peers, supervisors, or the community that highlights the individual's contributions and leadership qualities. • Quantifiable outcomes from initiatives led by the nominee, demonstrating their positive influence on the unit and Coastguard nationally. •
8.	**Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion** • Evidence of promoting diversity and inclusion within the unit and the broader Coastguard community. • Examples of initiatives or practices that have encouraged participation from diverse groups and created an inclusive environment. • Demonstrated respect for different perspectives and backgrounds, fostering a culture of equity and belonging.
9.	**Leadership at Multiple Levels** • Evidence of leadership and impact at the unit, regional, and national levels, highlighting the nominee's ability to influence and inspire across different scopes of the organisation. • Examples of strategic initiatives or programmes led by the nominee that have had a significant impact beyond their immediate unit.
Submission Requirements • Nominations should include specific examples and evidence of the nominee’s contributions, highlighting their impact on both the unit and the broader Coastguard community. • Supporting documents may include testimonials, statistics, and any records of initiatives or projects that illustrate the nominee's leadership and effectiveness.	

Category 5

Unit Support Volunteer of the Year

The Unit Support Volunteer of the Year award honours an individual who has made significant and valuable contributions to the effectiveness of their unit.

This award recognises volunteers who have demonstrated exceptional support in both regular operations and special events over the past 12 months.

The award also highlights volunteers who exemplify Coastguard values such as respect, altruism, integrity, dedication, professionalism, and cooperation. Additionally, it acknowledges those who have positively impacted the health, safety, and well-being of their peers, facilitated smooth day-to-day operations, and promoted teamwork and relationship-building within the unit.

Selection Criteria	
1.	**Evidence of Significant or Valuable Support to Unit Operations** • This includes documented instances demonstrating the volunteer's key contributions to the unit's effectiveness over the past 12 months. Evidence may encompass involvement in both regular operations and special events, highlighting specific tasks and responsibilities undertaken. • Prior contributions that have consistently added value to the unit over time should also be included.
2.	**Enhancement of Relationships with Coastguard and the Community** • The volunteer's impact should reflect their ability to foster positive relationships with Coastguard support office, local community members, and other stakeholders. • This can be demonstrated through collaborative projects, involvement in community outreach programmes, and initiatives that foster mutual respect and understanding between the unit and the community. It is also important to recognise improvements in volunteer experiences, such as receiving feedback from peers and community members that acknowledges their efforts.
3.	**Exemplification of Coastguard Values** • Nominees should demonstrate the core values of Coastguard: respect, altruism, integrity, dedication, professionalism, and cooperation. This can be illustrated through examples of how their actions align with these principles, such as mentoring new volunteers, engaging in training sessions, and upholding ethical standards in all interactions.

4.	**Contribution to Health, Safety, and Wellbeing of Fellow Volunteers** • The volunteer should have a measurable impact on the health, safety, and welfare of their peers. This can be demonstrated through initiatives such as organising safety training sessions, fostering a supportive environment, or advocating for mental health awareness within the unit. • Evidence may include feedback or testimonials from fellow volunteers regarding the individual's influence on promoting a safe and healthy working environment.
5.	**Facilitation of Smooth Unit Operations on a Day-to-Day Basis** • Contributions that ensure the smooth operation of the unit should be clearly detailed. This includes aspects such as logistical support, administrative assistance, and team communication management. Providing specific examples of interventions or improvements that have led to increased efficiency or effectiveness in operations will help reinforce this criterion.
6.	**Showing the Power of Teamwork and Building Relationships** • The volunteer should display an ability to work collaboratively with others, encouraging a spirit of teamwork within the unit. Evidence could include participation in team-building activities, successful collaboration on projects, or efforts to mediate conflicts and enhance communication among team members. • Positive feedback from peers regarding the volunteer's role in promoting a cohesive team environment is also relevant.
To be selected as the Unit Support Volunteer of the Year, nominators must provide comprehensive evidence addressing each of these criteria. By illustrating their contributions and the positive impacts they have made within the unit, they will demonstrate not only their commitment but also their vital role in upholding the mission and values of Coastguard.	

Unit Award Category Criteria

Unit Award Categories

- Unit Innovation of the Year (new award in 2025)
- Community Engagement Unit of the Year
- Rescue of the Year
- Unit of the Year

Category 6

Unit Innovation of the Year

New award in 2025

The Unit Innovation of the Year award aims to recognise and celebrate exceptional creativity and innovation within our organisation. This initiative seeks to encourage teams to think outside the box and devise groundbreaking solutions that enhance productivity, efficiency, and overall performance.

By highlighting innovative projects and ideas, we not only foster a culture of continuous improvement but also inspire collaboration, engagement, and forward-thinking among all employees.

The award serves as a platform to share best practices and learnings across departments, ultimately driving our collective mission to lead in our industry through innovative practices.

Selection Criteria	
1.	**Innovation Impact** • The innovation must have significantly improved operational efficiency, safety, or effectiveness. • Evidence of measurable outcomes such as reduced response times, increased number of successful rescues, or enhanced crew safety.
2.	**Creativity and Originality** • The innovation should demonstrate creative thinking and originality. • It should be a novel approach or a significant improvement over existing methods.
3.	**Sustainability and Scalability** • The innovation should be sustainable and have the potential for long-term benefits. • It should be scalable and adaptable for use by other Coastguard units.

4.	**Collaboration and Teamwork** • The innovation should involve collaboration within the unit and if relevant with external partners. • Evidence of effective teamwork and collective effort in developing and implementing the innovation.
5.	**Documentation and Presentation** • Detailed documentation of the innovation process, including planning, development, implementation, and evaluation. • A clear and compelling presentation of the innovation, highlighting its benefits and impact.

Category 7

Community Engagement Unit of the Year

The Community Engagement Unit of the Year award celebrates initiatives that have significantly benefited the local community. This award highlights activities that enhance social cohesion, safety, and overall well-being, while actively involving community members and fostering a sense of ownership.

This award aims to honour initiatives that contribute to community growth and safety through collaborative and innovative efforts. It recognises projects that not only engage the community but also promote its development and security through partnerships with Coastguard.

Selection Criteria	
1.	**Impact on Community** • The activity should demonstrate a significant positive effect on the local community, including enhancements to social cohesion, safety, or overall well-being.
2.	**Involvement of Community Members** • The initiative should actively involve local residents, encouraging participation and fostering a sense of ownership within the community.
3.	**Collaboration with Coastguard** • There should be a clear partnership or collaboration with Coastguard services, showcasing joint efforts in promoting safety and awareness in the community.
4.	**Sustainability** The project should have elements that ensure its benefits will continue beyond the immediate engagement, fostering long-term community development.
5.	**Innovation and Creativity** • The activity should showcase innovative approaches to community engagement, using creative methods to reach and involve diverse groups.

6.	**Promotion of Safety Awareness** • Initiatives that effectively raise awareness about marine safety, environmental protection, or emergency preparedness will be especially valued.
7.	**Feedback and Evaluation** • There should be mechanisms in place to gather feedback from participants and the community, demonstrating a commitment to continuous improvement and responsiveness to community needs.
8.	**Inclusivity** • The project should ensure that all segments of the community are included and able to participate, regardless of age, background, or ability.

Category 8

Rescue of the Year

The Rescue of the Year Award recognises outstanding achievements in emergency rescue operations. Nominators are invited to submit detailed documentation showcasing their efforts and the impact of their actions.

Selection Criteria	
1.	**Technical Information** Submissions must include comprehensive technical details about the rescue operation. This should include: • The nature of the emergency (e.g., natural disaster, accident, etc.) • Rescue techniques and methodologies utilised. • Equipment and tools employed. • Challenges faced and how they were mitigated.
2.	**Incident Background** A detailed description of the incident context, including: • Date and location of the rescue • Duration of the operation • Number of individuals involved as rescuers and those rescued.
3.	**Performance Metrics** Evidence of the effectiveness of the rescue efforts, such as: • Rescue outcomes (e.g., lives saved, injured individuals assisted) • Response time and efficiency • Coordination with other agencies or teams.

4.	**Impact Assessment** Describe the broader impact of the rescue operation on the community or organisation. This should include: • Feedback from those involved (victims, community members, or fellow responders) • Long-term effects on community resilience or emergency preparedness.
5.	**Innovation and Best Practices** Highlight any innovative practices or techniques used in the rescue that could serve as a model for future operations. This includes: • New approaches to risk assessment and management. • Effective use of technology in the rescue process.
6.	**Team Collaboration and Leadership** Description of the teamwork and leadership demonstrated during the operation, including: • Roles and responsibilities of team members • Communication strategies employed. • Training or skills development leading up to the rescue.
7.	**Adherence to Safety Protocols** Explain how safety protocols were observed during the operation, including: • Actions implemented to ensure the safety of both rescuers and those in need of rescue. • Assessment of risks involved in the rescue operation.
Nominations will be reviewed by a panel of experts in emergency response and rescue operations. Evaluation will focus on the completeness of the submission, the effectiveness of the actions taken, and the overall impact of the rescue operation. This structure ensures that applications are evaluated fairly and comprehensively, focusing on the technical prowess and collaborative spirit essential for effective rescue operations.	

Category 9

Unit of the Year

The Unit of the Year award recognises a unit that has demonstrated exceptional operational excellence, robust management practices, strong community relationships, and a clear vision and purpose.

This award celebrates units that consistently deliver safe and effective operations, adhering to standard operating procedures and participating in safety drills. It values units with sound fiscal management, effective succession planning, and a positive organisational culture.

The award also highlights units that cultivate strong relationships with the community and search and rescue partners, actively engaging in collaborative initiatives. Additionally, it honours units with a clear mission focused on reducing boating fatalities and promoting safe boating practices through innovative training and outreach programmes.

To be selected, units must provide substantial evidence of their achievements, including safety records, financial statements, partnership agreements, and testimonials. This award aims to promote excellence within the organisation by recognising units that make a significant impact on community safety and well-being.

Selection Criteria	
1.	**Operational Excellence** The unit must demonstrate a history of delivering safe and effective operations. This should include comprehensive adherence to standard operating procedures (SOPs), regular participation in MOSS (Management of Safety Systems) drills, and effective use of health and safety systems like Vault Health and Safety. **Evidence Required** Provide documentation of safety records, drill participation logs, and performance metrics that display operational success and improvements over time. Examples of incident reports and their resolutions can also enhance this section.
2.	**Management** The unit should have robust management practices in place that ensure the ongoing success and sustainability of operations. This encompasses sound fiscal management, effective succession planning, maintenance, and optimisation of assets (such as vessels, aircraft, and technology), and the establishment of sustainable funding streams. Additionally, a positive organisational culture should be evident. **Evidence Required** Include financial statements, strategic plans, succession plans, and surveys or feedback that demonstrate the culture within the unit. Documentation of asset management practices and funding sources would also support this criterion.
3.	**Relationships** The unit must cultivate strong relationships within its community and with relevant search and rescue (SAR) partners, as well as connections with other parts of Coastguard. Collaboration with local stakeholders and active engagement in community outreach initiatives are essential. **Evidence Required** Partnership agreements, community engagement strategies, feedback from community members, and records of joint exercises or initiatives with SAR partners should be provided to demonstrate the unit's collaborative efforts.
4.	**Vision and Purpose** The unit should have a clear mission focused on reducing boating fatalities and promoting safe boating practices. This includes initiatives aimed at improving safety outcomes and enhancing public understanding of boating safety. Attention to innovation in training and outreach programmes is also important. **Evidence Required** Outline specific programmes and initiatives the unit has implemented or taken part in that target boating safety. Include metrics on public engagement, participation in training sessions, or improvements in safety outcomes. Testimonials from beneficiaries of these programmes can provide compelling support.

5.	**Significant Evidence** All nominations must be accompanied by substantial evidence that supports the criteria mentioned above. This evidence should include quantitative data (e.g., statistics on safety improvements and training completion rates), qualitative information (e.g., testimonials and case studies), and any relevant media coverage that highlighted the unit's initiatives and achievements. **Evidence Required** A comprehensive portfolio that displays achievements and impacts, including charts, graphs, and narrative descriptions of programmes and their effectiveness. Letters of recommendation from stakeholders and partners can also bolster the nomination.
By expanding upon the criteria and highlighting the need for significant supporting evidence, the process of selecting the Unit of the Year will be more rigorous, transparent, and aligned with the goals of promoting excellence within the organisation.	

Category 10

Supreme Award Volunteer of the Year

The winners from each of the five individual categories become the finalists for the Supreme Award Volunteer of the Year. These finalists are then evaluated by a new judging panel, which selects the ultimate Volunteer of the Year.

Individual Categories

- Operational Crew Member of the Year (new award in 2025)
- Communications/Incident Management Volunteer of the Year
- Emerging (Young) Volunteer of the Year
- Outstanding Leadership Award
- Unit Support Volunteer of the Year

Selection criteria for the Supreme Award Volunteer of the Year

This criterion aims to recognise and honour the outstanding contributions of volunteers who demonstrate exceptional commitment, leadership, and impact within Coastguard and the broader community.

Selection Criteria	
1.	**Impact on Coastguard Outputs** • Evidence of significant contributions to the operational success of Coastguard at the unit, regional, or national levels. • Examples of initiatives or actions that have directly improved operational efficiency, safety, or effectiveness.

2.	**Governance and Stewardship** • Demonstrated understanding and implementation of best practices in governance and stewardship within the organisation. • Active participation in governance activities, such as serving on committees or boards, and contributing to policy development.
3.	**Management and Administration** • Effective management and administrative skills that contribute to the smooth operation of Coastguard activities. • Examples of successful project management, resource allocation, and administrative support that have enhanced organisational performance.
4.	**Funding and Sponsorship** • Efforts made in securing funding or sponsorship that have positively impacted the organisation's initiatives. • Demonstrated success in grant writing, fundraising campaigns, or building relationships with sponsors and donors.
5.	**Recruitment and Induction Programmes** • Involvement in developing and implementing successful recruitment and induction programs for new volunteers. • Evidence of strategies that have increased volunteer numbers, improved retention rates, and ensured effective onboarding processes.
6.	**Promotion and Marketing** • Active engagement in promoting and marketing Coastguard, enhancing its visibility and community engagement. • Examples of successful marketing campaigns, public relations efforts, or community outreach activities that have raised awareness and support for Coastguard.
7.	**Development and Innovation** • Contributions to the development or innovation of programs, services, or processes that significantly benefit Coastguard. • Examples of creative solutions, new technologies, or improved practices that have been implemented to enhance Coastguard's operations and impact.
8.	**Leadership and Mentorship** • Demonstrated leadership qualities and the ability to inspire and mentor others within the organization. • Examples of mentoring programs, leadership training, or initiatives that have developed the skills and capabilities of fellow volunteers.

9.	**Community Engagement and Partnerships** • Active involvement in building and maintaining strong relationships with the community and other organisations. • Evidence of collaborative initiatives that have promoted water safety, education, and community well-being.
10.	**Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion** • Efforts to promote diversity and inclusion within Coastguard and the broader community. • Examples of initiatives that have encouraged participation from diverse groups and created an inclusive environment.

Awards Team

- Jacqui Arnold, Volunteer Manager
- Zoe Lankshear, People Advisor
- Caryl (CJ) Fantham, Volunteer Coordinator
- Kate Fullan, Senior Communications Advisor

If you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out. The awards team is here to assist you in any way we can.

Jacqui Arnold
Volunteer Manager

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