

MARINE RESCUE NSW PORT STEPHENS UNIT

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off-shore**



MARINE RESCUE NSW – PORT STEPHENS UNIT

Postal Address: PO Box 20, Nelson Bay, NSW 2315

Location: Nelson Head, Nelson Bay, NSW

Email: base.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au

Phone: (02) 4981 3585

Fax: (02) 4984 1944

VOLUNTEERS SAVING LIVES ON THE WATER

UNIT APPOINTMENTS

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Patrons: Kate Washington MP, State Member Port Stephens Meryl Swanson MP, Federal Member Paterson Stephen Bromhead LLM MP, State Member Myall Lakes The Hon. Dr David Gillespie MP, Federal Member Lyne The Hon. Bob Baldwin | | Awards and Recognition Technical Services Protocol Officer Corporate Services Administration Officer Providore W.H. & S Officer Base Security Membership Rosters Comms Centre Services Building & Services Coordinator Supply Officer Data Base/Stats Admin Support Historian Trust Management Sub-Committee Chairman Deputy Chairman Treasurer Secretary Committee Port Stephens Historical Society Welfare / Liaison Wedding Events Co-ordinator: Assistants: Tours | Iain Blackadder Lee Ryman Brian Richardson Peter Baldwin Robert Johnson Dieter Greiter Harold Gibson Colin Couper Jenny Fitzsimons Angus MacKenzie John P Smith Loris Webster Heather Haskett Peter Baldwin Julia Lynch Trevor Brighton Steve Harris Margaret Morrison Maureen Wheatley Erica Smith Paul Farnill Kevin Griffey John Reid Peter Merlino Ross Debenham Peter Fitzsimons Dennis Corr Harold Gibson Jenny Fitzsimons Jenni Fryer, Greg Walsh Vacant |
| Unit Commander Deputy Unit Commander Gift Shop Manager Events Coordinator Social Committee: | Colin Foote Peter Merlino Sandra Scheuber Dee Gilliland Lisa Lodding, Heather Perry-Comley | | |
| Operations Operations Officer Assistant Operations Officer BOM Contact Duty Callout Officers Angus MacKenzie, Peter Baldwin, Communications Centre Manager Radio Club Manager Ashes Scattering Coordinator Rescue Vessels Manager Assistant Manager Chief Engineer R.F.S. Liaison Coxswains | Tony O'Donnell Richard Pizzuto Trevor Moxham Neil Fraser, Frank Van Druten Laurie Nolan Elizabeth Francis Harold Gibson Barney Pinney Vacant Bill Haskell Ross Debenham Colin Couper Robert Johnson Laurie Nolan Brian Bibbing | | |
| Finance Treasurer Grants Officer | Peter Merlino John Reid | | |
| Community Relations Community Relations Officer Public Relations/Social Media Editor Port Chatter Asst Editor Port Chatter Fund Raising Officer Unit Photographer Webmaster | Iain Blackadder Iain Blackadder Penelope Highland Frank van Druten Peter Young Geoff Clark Peter Baldwin | | |
| Unit Training Unit Training Officer Training Systems Officer Training Systems Officer Rescue Vessels Training Officer Course Presenters: Provisional Member Support | Gary Williams Angela O'Dea Jan Sami Brian Bibbing Paul Buckley, Colin Couper Peter Dentrinos, Neil Fraser, Trevor Moxham, Barney Pinney, David Rogers Colin Cahill, Angela Tilling, Krystyna Winslow | | |
| Welfare / Liaison Assistant | Harold Gibson Jenny Fitzsimons | | |
| Emergency Services Liaison | Colin Cahill | | |

The *Port Chatter* is the bi-monthly newsletter of Marine Rescue NSW, Port Stephens unit. It is available free to all members of the unit, its advertisers, sponsors, and other interested members of the community.

Contributions are most welcome from all members, advertisers, sponsors or other interested community members. They should be accompanied by the author's name, address and phone number, and can be emailed to the editor at editor.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au. Contributions are subject to review by the Executive Committee prior to publishing.

Advertising enquiries are welcomed. Contact the editor at editor.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au for more information.

Sponsors can make **tax-deductible** donations to Marine Rescue NSW Port Stephens. All sponsorships will be acknowledged in *Port Chatter* if requested.

Cover Photograph - Tony O'Donnell

OUR GOAL

To be the most effective Marine Rescue Unit in NSW

OUR PRIMARY FOCUS

Saving lives at sea on open and closed waters in and around Port Stephens

MARINE RESCUE NSW – PORT STEPHENS UNIT SERVICES PROVIDED



Category One Marine Search and Rescue Co-ordination Centre (SARCC). Located at the former Inner Light and now Heritage Site at Nelson Head, 32°42.632 S; 152°09.667 E (overlooking Shoal Bay and looking out through the entrance to Port Stephens). Accredited by the State Rescue Board.

Communications Centre, Nelson Head - VMR217. Operated by trained and qualified volunteers, 24 hours a day; 7 days a week; 365 days a year. Monitoring 27MHz, and VHF marine frequencies, emergency and calling channels. Open during each day to the visiting public.

Apart from radio coverage generally to the local boating community, the Communications Centre offers:

- Emergency support to vessels in trouble
- Emergency and routine after hours communications for Rural Fire Service operating in the Lower Hunter and Hunter Valley districts
- A Marine Radio Safety (MRS) service – Boat Register
- A checkpoint and radio coverage for recreational vessels transiting up and down the coastline adjacent to Port Stephens.
- Weather readings and local conditions observations and
- Current Bureau of Meteorology weather forecasts and tidal information. (These can be obtained by contacting the Comms Centre by phone or radio and are also offered in regular radio skeds).

Accredited Rescue Vessels Available on a 24 hr call-out basis, subject to Police tasking. (See 'Rescue Vessels' page).

Weather recording facility Accredited by the Bureau of Meteorology. Regular reports on local conditions are electronically communicated to the Bureau, as well as to Radio, TV and Print media outlets in the local area.

Nelson Head Reserve and Heritage Inner Light Cottage. The Nelson Bay Unit of Marine Rescue NSW is responsible to the State Government for upkeep of this heritage precinct, through its 'Nelson Head Lighthouse and Rescue Station Reserve Trust Management Sub-committee' (which includes a representative of the Port Stephens Historical Society).

A small museum is operated by volunteers and is open to the public, 7 days a week from 10am to 4pm.

A portion of the building is leased to a private operator for morning/afternoon teas/coffee and lunches.

Wedding Ceremonies. Bookings can be made to hold these in the grounds (see Lighthouse Weddings page).

Below the Comms Centre, on the ground floor, is a tourist Gift Shop operated by Marine Rescue Port Stephens. Without profits from the Gift Shop, together with support from the local community, clubs and businesses, the Unit would find it very difficult, if not near impossible, to operate.

PARADISE WATERS—NELSON BAY



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Christopher (vendor)

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Paul Morris
Real Estate Agent
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UNIT COMMANDER'S REPORT AND DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER

UNIT COMMANDER

Two Boats on the Water and a Comms Centre Open 24/7. Sounds straight forward but takes a lot of effort from a number of committed Volunteers. The following articles in this issue of Port Chatter highlight some of the amazing things that we do at Marine Rescue Port Stephens.

Our 200+ Members continue to meet our core requirements as well as the support functions critical to our operations. Importantly we need to have opportunities to bring our team together to share our experiences but also to have a little fun and the chance to meet and socialise. Our new Social Committee have had the first event of the year, *Movie Under the Stars* (well almost under the stars, due to rain and thunder). They deserve our thanks and support for more activities planned for the remainder of the year.

The **Gift Shop** continues to provide an essential contribution to our funding requirements. Sandra Scheuber and her team take great pride in the range of products on display. Well done.

Our grounds and cottage are always in immaculate condition and are maintained by a small group of hard workers every Monday morning and as need demands. Thank you.

Peter Merlino and I were delighted to attend the



Central Coast 21

Commissioning of the two new rescue vessels for MR Central Coast. We will also be going to Lake Macquarie at the end of April for the Commissioning of their new

boat. This is part of the extensive plans for ongoing replacement of vessels across the state, including a new vessel to replace Codi KII in the beginning of 2021. We will shortly commence a review of our requirements, including visits to nearby Units to inspect their boats.

Congratulations to those members who have completed their assessments for either Boat or Comms Centre qualifications. Ensuring that our members are trained and have the skill set to manage major incidents requires personal dedication from the recipient but also from our Training Team who give a lot of their time to training courses.

We have a number of Telco projects occurring. Apart from the building reinforcement reported in the previous Port Chatter, both Optus and Vodafone have plans for antenna upgrades on our building. We are conscious of the safety requirements of contractors on the roof of our Radio Base and the logistics of car parking and general access.

The plans for the refurbishment of our Floating Dock at the Marina is still continuing with an intent to have the work completed by the end of this year. Apart from Community support we will need to apply for suitable Grants to finance the estimated cost of approximately \$60,000.

To our new members, please come and join us at our monthly Unit Meetings. This is an excellent opportunity to meet other members and to learn more about what we do in our Unit and hear guest speakers covering a wide range of subjects. At our March meeting we were pleased to have Susanne Callaghan from National Parks & Wildlife giving us an in depth view of all things happening on Broughton Island. We will continue to invite interesting speakers to join us in future meetings.

With school holidays and Easter around the corner we expect to be busy in April and then we head toward the quieter Winter months which gives us the opportunity to continue with our training programs for new members.

There is never a quiet time at Marine Rescue Port Stephens.

Colin Foote

"Volunteers Saving Lives on the Water"

DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER

Marine Rescue NSW will be receiving from the NSW Government, an additional \$37.6M funding over next four years. The funding will partially assist our Unit in obtaining a replacement rescue vessel for Port Stephens 30, which is due in early 2021. In addition to funding the purchase of a number of new vessels for other Units, the funding will greatly assist Units requiring upgrades or rebuilds of communications centres and training areas.

The additional funding is great news for Marine Rescue

NSW, however we still need to continue our existing fund-raising efforts to meet the operational costs of our busy unit.

We have identified a number of projects which require funding. Our Grants Officer is now investigating grants opportunities and preparing the necessary applications to try and obtain funding for urgent projects such as the replacement of our floating dock pontoon, estimated to cost over \$60,000.

(Continued on page 7)

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DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER... CORPORATE SERVICES & DONATION BOATS

(Continued from page 5)

Our last unit meeting was well attended, with Susanne Callaghan Head Ranger, Broughton Island from National Parks and Wildlife, enlightening us about the developments on the Island. Monthly unit meetings are open to all members and I encourage all members to attend.

We will continue to invite interesting guest speakers from our local community as well as our own Unit Members to share their knowledge and experiences.

At the conclusion of each meeting light refreshments are prepared by master caterers Jenny Fitzsimons and Debbie Buckley which provides an opportunity to mix and meet with other Unit Members.



Susanne Callaghan Head Ranger, Broughton Island

After weeks of no rain, our *Movie under the Stars* night was hit by storms and rain and ended up being held under the ceiling of the Nelson Bay Community Hall.

It was a very successful night with a report and photos elsewhere in Port Chatter.

I would especially like to acknowledge the very generous support of a number of local businesses who sponsored the event, especially **Guy's Choice Cuts Butchery** in Magnus Street Nelson Bay for cooking the meats, preparing salads and rolls and then delivering to us. Thank you Guy, we greatly appreciate your support and lastly, thank you to the Social Committee for



organising a wonderful event.

Peter Merlino

ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Over the last two months, the Corporate Services team has been quietly working away in the background ensuring members and HO are up to date with all things administrative.

After a prolonged delay, the logjam at HO Stores has been loosened and a number of uniforms have been received. Marg and Drew Morrison have contacted members when their orders have arrived. Please collect them up from the base after you have been notified. If they have not been taken from the Command Centre after a week, they are kept in the old Oil Store room. To collect after that time, come to the base on Sunday morning and Marg will be able to retrieve them for you.

There are still some backorders and replacement orders outstanding and the request forms have been re-scanned and re-sent to Stores.

29 January saw the following new members inducted into the Unit:

The team of Colin Cahill, Krystyna Winslow and

Martin Collins

Paul Craven

Peter Grice

Peter Hill

Adrian Hill

Bobby Mendoza

Neil Moore

Shane Morgan

Karen Powers

Judi Priestley

Tina Wasilewicz

Robert Wasilewicz

Angela Tilling help our new members settle in with advice on upcoming courses, signing on to shifts, etc. For those in the Gift Shop, Sandra Scheuber quickly ensures they become part of that very important team.

Welcome to you all.

Colin Couper

DONATION BOATS

We have two more donation boats in the community one in ASN Greenhills and another in the Long Boat Café Fingal Bay. Thanks to the businesses who support us by allowing our donation boats on display.

Stephen Alta





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COMMUNITY RELATIONS

MAC VISIT

Marine Rescue Port Stephens serves the boating public through its mission of "Volunteers Saving Lives at Sea". In delivering that Mission we work through the Water Police (Marine Area Command or MAC) who are responsible for all search and rescue operations in NSW waters.

Throughout the busy summer months, each weekend Marine Rescue NSW is invited to send a Regional Operations Manager and a representative from one of the Units to work at the MAC in Balmain. This gives a great opportunity for the Marine Rescue personnel to close the loop and see the other end of the Search and Rescue operations which are very often commenced through their Comms Centre.



Recently, it was the turn of Port Stephens to send a representative to the MAC. Our Operations Officer represented our Unit on this occasion. He reported back that the experience was very worthwhile especially seeing how requests for assistance are managed, working with the Police systems and being able to view the resources available.

We would like to thank the Officers at the MAC for their hospitality and for making this opportunity available to us. Without doubt our operations will be just that little bit better because of this experience.

It was also an excellent opportunity for our Unit to get to understand better the role of our Regional Operations Manager and how this all drives us to our Mission -

Volunteers Saving Lives at Sea.

Iain Blackadder

NELSON BAY BOWLING CLUB VISIT

Marine Rescue Port Stephens needs to raise about \$150,000 each year to meet running costs and to put funds aside to pay for capital equipment such as radios, computers, building and dock maintenance and new rescue vessels.

Currently, the Unit is raising funds to replace our ageing floating dock at a cost of around \$60,000 to \$70,000. We are working towards securing grants to help fund this cost

do on the water - something few people get to see. On the way out of the Marina, we had the pleasure of seeing at close quarters the super yacht **Callisto**, registered in George Town Cayman Islands and visiting our shores for a few days.

We were able to demonstrate to the Board members, a towing exercise using PS30 as the towed vessel. Later we showed how the equipment on-board our vessel can be used to find a person in the water who has activated an EPIRB.



To round off the visit the Unit Commander took our guests to the Comms Centre to show our capability on that side of our operations.

It is truly a pleasure for us hosting visitors who support and appreciate the work we do.

Iain Blackadder

as well as undertaking significant fund raising activities.

The Unit relies on the very generous support of local Clubs and benefactors to help us survive.

Recently, the Unit Commander welcomed on-board PS31 the President of Nelson Bay Bowling Club and two of the Clubs' Directors.

This was a good opportunity to demonstrate what we



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COMMUNITY RELATIONS

FIRST AID COURSE

Although Marine Rescue Port Stephens is in a quiet period for rescues, our training programme continues.



Recently, we conducted First Aid and Advanced Resuscitation courses for our members. As can be seen from the photo, a sense of realism is added to First Aid Training.

Our boats were on the water for crew training (use of fire fighting equipment). We don't plan to fight fires but to use the equipment to protect life and our vessel by being able to safely approach a person in water.

Iain Blackadder



MARINE RESCUE IS NOT A GOVERNMENT AGENCY

It was really interesting over the Christmas holidays to talk to so many visitors to our Comms Centre - both from Australia and Overseas. Naturally many knew about Marine Rescue but the vast majority did not. All were surprised that we were run by unpaid volunteers at the Comms Centre (24/7) and on the rescue vessels (on call 24/7).

A group from Sweden were staggered when they heard about the work our volunteers accomplished '**Volunteers Saving Lives on the Water**'. We also told them about RFS, SES, Port Stephens Koalas and so many other volunteer organisations.

To continue the story, here are the 2018 recorded Marine Rescue Port Stephens volunteer hours of our members at both the Comms Centre and Rescue Vessels. We are very proud of these statistics and know there are many more hours put in by the Exec. Group, Gift Shop, Historic Museum/Trust which are not recorded.

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Comms Centre | 17,638 |
| Rescue Boats | 4,389 |
| Total | 22,027 volunteer hours |

A truly amazing effort.

Now add to this total, the training and study hours and the administrative effort needed to run the Unit.

Iain Blackadder





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TECHNICAL SERVICES

DATA MANAGEMENT

For those who have not seen the Marine Rescue Port Stephens Hunter Coast Weather web page, here are a few reasons for checking it out.

We provide a full three day coastal weather forecast for the Hunter Coast covering the area between Seal Rocks and Broken Bay. The Bureau of Meteorology issues forecast updates around 4.10 (am and pm) and often at other times during the day. Within one minute of their issue, we will have captured and uploaded those updates which, very importantly, may include weather warnings such as Strong and Gail Wind Warnings. Forewarning of these events is of vital importance to those planning to venture onto the water including, but not limited to, those planning to travel offshore to the district's very popular fishing destinations.

At ten minute intervals throughout the day and night we upload the current temperature, barometric pressure and wind/gust speeds and direction as recorded by the weather station mounted on the roof of the Comms Centre. Barometric pressure readings are corrected down to sea level (40 meters).

At regular times throughout the daylight hours the Comms Centre personnel record and upload their observation of visibility and conditions in the bay and at the heads.

We provide height and time details for the next two tide changes at Port Stephens Heads. The page is updated within one minute of those changes occurring.

We display sunset and last light times from midnight until last light, and from around 3.00pm we provide first light and sunrise times for the following day.

At ten minute intervals during daylight hours we check with Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) and record the current UV classification determined from data collected by their Newcastle detector. Because ARPANSA have only two detectors in NSW, our fall-back in the event of an outage at Newcastle is Sydney. We also display UV alerts issued daily by the Bureau of Meteorology.

The web page is optimised for viewing on any size screen, viz, computer, tablet or smartphone. (On very small screens, such as phones, the Local Conditions table may need to be scrolled to the left to view all the data it contains.)

The page can be accessed:-

Via the Marine Rescue Port Stephens website. Scroll down to Current Weather Info and click on the link, **'Detailed Weather Info from MRPS'**.

By searching for Marine Rescue Port Stephens Up to Date Hunter Coastal Waters Weather information in a web browser, or by typing or copying:

<https://www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au/weather-pic/weather.html>



into a browser and hitting Enter.

For convenience, all of the information is contained on one compact web page. Another reason for such easy access is the data is used by our media partner, **Port Stephens FM**. Listen to PSFM on the half hour when they present current boating conditions outlined from the information provided by us on the page.

Brian Richardson

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GIFT SHOP AND NELSON HEAD TRUST



The Gift Shop has been very busy with the arrival of new stock, purchased at the Sydney Trade Fair.

With School holidays, and Easter fast approaching, our volunteers will remain busy.

Guest Speaker at our March meeting was Beth Raftery. Beth travels across Australia for 5 months a year searching many fossicking areas for genuine precious gemstones such as Topaz, Garnets, Zircons, Amethyst, Smokey Quartz, and her favourite Sapphires. On returning she facets them and spends many hours designing and



Beth Raftery and Di Baillie

making many one off designs of jewellery. Her items can be found in the Port Stephens Community Arts Centre.

Sandra Scheuber

TRUST CHAIRMAN

I frequently receive accolades from members of the public and bus groups congratulating the Trust Grounds Team for the beautiful manicured grounds. In addition to keeping the grounds in a beautiful condition, they do lots of physical repairs to reduce the



financial impact on the Trust budget. Below are some photos of the Team painting the pedestrian seat half way up Lighthouse Road and digging a trench for a licenced electrician to lay electrical conduit and wiring from the flag pole to the wedding dais.

Kevin Griffey





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OPERATIONS

OPERATIONS OFFICER

(Covering Comms Centre, Boats and Duty Callout Officers).

Our Unit Commander regularly reminds us that what we are about is keeping our Comms Centre (which is a registered Search and Rescue Coordinator Centre or SARCC) open 24/7 and having two rescue vessels available to respond when tasked. That sums up the Operations group of Marine Rescue Port Stephens.

Making that happen naturally requires the efforts of many people. There are a few new faces who have taken on responsibilities who I would like to acknowledge.

Richard Pizzuto, (a long time Boat and Comms centre Crew member) has taken on the role of Assistant Operations Officer. Richard has recently retired from the RAAF and brings an amazing amount of relevant experience to this position. He has twice been recognised for bravery on our vessels and was a member of the crew who was awarded the National Search and Rescue Award (NATSAR) in 2015 (rescue of Reef Dragon crew).

Barney Pinney, with the retirement of Ken Johnson, has now assumed the role of Boat Officer. This is a job which takes a lot of personal time. Keeping two Commercial vessels fully operational is a big responsibility which Barney handles so well. Barney, as all of us who know him, has a wide range of skills which is why he is so successful in what he does. He also was a recipient of the NATSAR Award in 2015. In his "spare time", he is rostered as one of our Coxswains

Laurie Nolan has recently taken on the management of the Communications Centre. Our Comms Centre never closes and the crew working there are the first contact in the event of a distress call from a vessel on the water.

Laurie was also a recipient of the NATSAR (2015) award and is the first person to be awarded the Medal of Valour by the Commissioner for his bravery in the 2016 rescue of M3. he also Coxswains.

Then we have a hard-working group of members who make it all happen.

There is not a minute of the day that we do not have a qualified person in the Comms Centre, monitoring radios should there be a distress call made. Usually there are two to three Watch Keepers

completing all the other necessary functions, throughout the day.

There is a small group of members who maintain the rescue vessels ensuring that whenever our vessels are tasked, they are "right to go".

Our boat crew members who continually train, are on call 24/7 and do amazing work when they are tasked to assist out on the water.

Finally, but not least is the small group of Duty Callout Officers (DCO's). When rostered they must be immediately contactable (24/7) to call out a boat crew if we are tasked and maintain communications with the Port Stephens Water Police.

I am sure our readers will agree that we have a sensational team in the Operations Group. All working hard to deliver on the UC's focus of having a Comms Centre operational 24/7 and two rescue vessels ready to be tasked at any time. Many thousands of volunteer hours given to saving lives on the water.

Here are our statistics for the 1st quarter of 2019.

| MARINE INCIDENTS MANAGED | |
|--|-----------|
| Category | Statistic |
| Marine Incidents Managed by our Comms Centre | 71 |
| Our Boats were Tasked by the Water Police | 27 Times |

Tony O'Donnell



Some of our dedicated rescue vessel crew.

BOATS OFFICER

BOATS OFFICER

This has been a busy Summer/Autumn two months with an average number of assists and some intensive training both for our crews and with the CHC rescue helicopter unit based at RAAF Williamtown.

Maintaining our two lifeboats PS30 and PS31 in a fully serviceable condition and ready for action, as always, provides an interesting challenge. Fortunately, our team of dedicated maintenance volunteers continue an effective program of preventative maintenance. This coupled with a crew which is developing good skills in equipment performance monitoring and reporting, ensure that the Boat Manager has a busy (and rewarding) life.

Some specific issues in no particular order:

PS30 Codi K II



A new life ring has been marked and fitted.

The FLIR (night vision camera) has been repaired. Salt water had penetrated the 'waterproof' data and video connections to the unit mounted inside the



vessel's equipment mast.

The intermittent fault on the Suzuki outboards reappeared several times, fortunately without operational consequence. After a visit by senior Suzuki service personnel, it was agreed to replace the Boat Management unit (a computer serving both engines) and both cooling system thermostats. There have been no faults since this work was completed. We have argued that one complete service interval (100 hours operation) must be completed fault free before the fault can be considered cleared.

PS31 John Thompson

The anchoring gear fitted uses a combination of rope and chain. After a series of anchoring problems, the patented Rope Chain Management system on the winch was found to be faulty. This has since been



repaired. At the same time the winch motor and gearbox were removed, cleaned and given a good coat of corrosion inhibitor before being replaced and tested.

The vessel is fitted with 6 Raymarine multi-function display (MFD) units each is capable of being used as a display and control interface for any of the other onboard systems. One of the units is failing progressively and will be replaced under warranty. Unfortunately, the current units are

now obsolete so the job will involve a system wide software upgrade and the replacement of one additional MFD (at our cost).



DOCK

With improving facilities, the dock is functioning more and more as a 'mother ship' to our fleet.

The 'off grid' shore power system continues to give great service. It has had some testing workouts over the period with occasional use of the stand-by generator.

Detailed planning is under way for the (grant funded) communications link between the dock and the base.



Finally, on a personal note I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor in this job – Ken Johnson now MR Skipper retired. Scarcely a day goes by without learning more about what a great job Ken did. Don't be a stranger Ken. I have found the Gaffer tape but I know there is lots more to learn.



Barney Pinney



WELFARE

WELFARE & PROTOCOL OFFICER

I am pleased to say that we do not have many reports of members on the "Sea Sick" list for this month, this is the news that we all like to hear.

Noel Corcoran however has not been too well on a recent cruise to Singapore that he and wife Yvonne have just completed. Noel wanted to drive home to me that it was not "Sea Sickness". Noel has been one of our rescue vessel skippers for many years and has never been sea sick. We do all believe you Noel and certainly understand that you had a virus?

I believe that Yvonne found the cruising a delight and the heavier the swell, the better she liked it. I hope that you both had a great time after Noel overcame the virus infection.

Kevin Griffey has not been feeling his young self these past weeks. However Kevin finds that his interest in art is a far better medication than what the doctor prescribes to him. Well done Kevin and I am sure that there is some merit in this also. Just of interest, may I suggest that our members pay a visit to the "Port Stephens Community Arts Centre and inspect some of the lovely work that Kevin and several of our other members have on display, very interesting indeed.

Elaine Cook is home from hospital and is slowly making a good recovery after her recent major spinal surgery operation. Elaine would like to thank the many members who have contacted and supported her and husband John in these hard times. All the best Elaine and all look forward to seeing your smiling self at the Gift Shop when you are able to return.

Doug Craike our handy base electrician has been far from well. Doug had his holiday cut short recently when he was unable to walk around because of crippling back

pain.

Doug has spent a week in hospital undergoing tests and pain relieving procedures.

We are all thinking of you Doug and no one knows just how crippling back pain is, till they experience an episode themselves.

Peg Weir wife of our dear past member John Weir has had a nasty fall recently resulting in a broken hip. Peg, "at time of writing" is in hospital awaiting to have hip replacement surgery performed. Peg we are all thinking of you dear, also to daughter Rhonda who is caring for Peggy.



Jessica Lighton receiving her Law Degree

Jessica Lighton would like to let all of her friends know that after her many years of study at university she has started work with a very large prominent Law firm in Sydney. Jessica was overwhelmed with the many members at the February mess meeting who congratulated her on achieving her Law Degree and also a very prestigious position in Sydney.

All the best Jessica from all of us at Port Stephens and I am sure all from Marine Rescue NSW.

I am sure that we have many other members who are still not feeling quite as well as they would like to be. May I say all

the best to you and please contact myself, or Jenny Fitzsimons if you require assistance in any way, or even just a social chat, we are here for you.

Safe boating.

Harold Gibson



Callisto leaving Port Stephens

RAFFLE

Tickets: \$2 each or 3 for \$5

Glide V-Series Fishing Kayak
Valued at \$649.00

Tickets available from our Radio Room or email
fundraising.portstephens@mrnsw.com.au



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TRAINEES AND PROMOTION & FUNDRAISING

TRAINEES

Congratulations to Trevor Brighton, Peter Young, Anthony Batchler and Gary Williams on achieving the rating of Marine Radio Operator (MRO).

These Volunteers have attained the required Units of Competence (UoC) in progressing to this rating and have been formally assessed as a competent radio operator. They are fully capable of handling the simplest of radio communications and procedures up to a full MayDay call.

Congratulations also to Murray O'Dea on being assessed as a Competent Marine Rescue Crew after finishing off six months of hard work both at the books and practical operations on the rescue vessels.

Marine Rescue NSW is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO). All our members have the opportunity to formally develop new skills and attain new qualifications. These qualifications range from radio operations (MRO and Watch Officer), on the boats (Crew, Leading Crew, Coxswain and Master), as well as first aid and resuscitation, VHF radio licence, meteorology etc.



Laurie Nolan congratulating Murray O'Dea on attaining Marine Rescue Crew

Certainly, worthwhile skills in achieving our vision of Volunteers Saving Lives at Sea and adding new meaning and interest to the lives of our members.

Iain Blackadder

PROMOTION AND FUNDRAISING

After a busy holiday season with lots of promotional activity, February and March were much quieter months.

Our Kayak Raffle is proving a success in the Comms Centre and Gift Shop. As it enters the last few weeks of sales, if you haven't already done some, get your tickets.

In early to mid-May, a winter raffle will start so look out for this promotion.

A Unit promotional day is planned for Saturday 30 March at Salamander Bay Square. A team is in place for this event where we will be promoting opportunities to volunteer with the Unit, the benefits of MRS membership and selling a few more raffle tickets along the way.

April is gearing up to be very busy with The Trailer Boat Fishing Competition, activities with the Women Who Sail organisation as well as our regular raffles at the Nelson Bay Bowling Club and Bunnings BBQ.

All our promotion and fundraising days are listed on the Members web page so if you have some free time to help out, sign on and come along.

The Promotional and Fundraising Team is always on the lookout for new ideas and opportunities, so if you have any ideas, please get in touch.

A new position has been created to help promote MRS Membership. The role will focus on selling the benefits of MRS membership to the boating and general public through face to face contact and direct mail campaigns to targeted boating groups.

Interested in helping out and growing this important area of our activities then please get in touch.

Iain Blackadder and Peter Young



Two of NSW Water Police vessels, WP24 and OPV Nemesis in dry dock at Nelson Bay for annual service.



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Fax: 4981 1468

info@fingalbaysportsclub.com

<http://www.fingalbaysportsclub.com>

RAFFLES

Thursdays

Fishing Club Meat Tray Raffle
at 6.30pm

Fridays at 5.30pm

Over \$1,600 worth of prizes (meat
and fruit and veggie trays)

Tickets on sale from 4.45pm

BINGO

Club Bingo

Mondays at 7pm and

Wednesdays at 9.30am

**Children Welcome (must
be supervised by an adult)**

FINGAL BAY BISTRO

Great food at reasonable prices

Open 7 days with nightly specials
from 5.30-8pm

**Monday – \$8 Roast Dinner (non-Members
\$10)** Choice of roast pork or beef "no
combos"

**Tuesday – \$20 Two for one schnitzel -
(non-Member \$22)** Beef or Chicken
served with chips & salad or potato &
vegetables. Choice of either gravy, Dianne,
Pepper, Mushroom ; or Garlic Cream Sauce.

**Wednesday – \$13 Rump Night, Non-
Member \$15)** With chips and salad or
potato and vegetables

Choice of sauce: Gravy, Dianne, pepper,
mushroom or Garlic cream sauce.

Thursday – Family night Kids Eat Free
when an adult orders a main meal.
Children under 12 years - Limit 3 children
per adult.

Regular Entertainment

Trivia Nights - Trivia challenge
the last Tuesday of every month

Live Bands

Mens & Womens Bowls

Visitors welcome

Phone club for details

Social Darts

Friday Evenings at 7.30pm

ATM

Keno

TAB Room

Big Screen TV

Children's Playground

*Phone the club for our
courtesy bus details.*

FEBRUARY AND MARCH UNIT MEETINGS



UC Colin Foote, Jess Lighton and Harold Gibson



Mike Pierpoint and his National Medal



Susanne Callaghan Head Ranger, Broughton Island



UC Colin Foote, congratulating Nigel Eves on attaining Marine Rescue Crew rating.



UC Colin Foote, congratulating Trevor Brighton and Jenni Fryer on their MRO rating.



Anthony Bachelor receiving his MRO epaulettes from UC Colin Foote



UC Colin Foote, receiving the Gift Shop contribution from Shirley Clark



UC Colin Foote and UC Lemon Tree Passage Rick Tyler



UC Colin Foote and Peter Young receiving his MRO rating.



Tim Boyle receiving his Watch Officer epaulettes.



Visitors to the February Unit Meeting Jane Shirrif, UC Colin Foote, Sam Pratten, UC Rick Tyler and Regional Ops Manager Steve Raymond

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS

TWO ASSISTS

Early on Saturday 3 March, our Comms Centre received a call from a vessel 12 nautical miles to sea with a flat battery and electrical problems. As PS31 was undertaking a training exercise at the time, the vessel was tasked to assist.



Arriving on scene, the crew passed over the Mini Jump Starter (which each of our vessels carry) and the problem was soon resolved - saving a long tow back to safe waters.

In the afternoon, not long after PS31's return it was again tasked to assist a vessel at Broughton Island. The skipper reported they were experiencing engine overheating problems. Due to the sea conditions, it was a long slow tow back to Hawkes Nest.

Just two examples of the readiness of our Volunteers to support the boating community.

Iain Blackadder

PORT STEPHENS YACHT CLUB SUPPORTS MARINE RESCUE.

Marine Rescue Port Stephens relies on the generous support of the community to help fund our operations.

Unit Commander Colin Foote visited the Port Stephens Yacht Club during a special fund raising regatta to accept a donation over \$700 from Commodore Bill Haskell, to help support our activities.

Yacht Club members are very generous and made a gold coin donation for their after-event BBQ and also have been putting their loose coins into one of our Donation Boxes.

Thank you to the very generous sailors from the Port Stephens Yacht Club for their support.

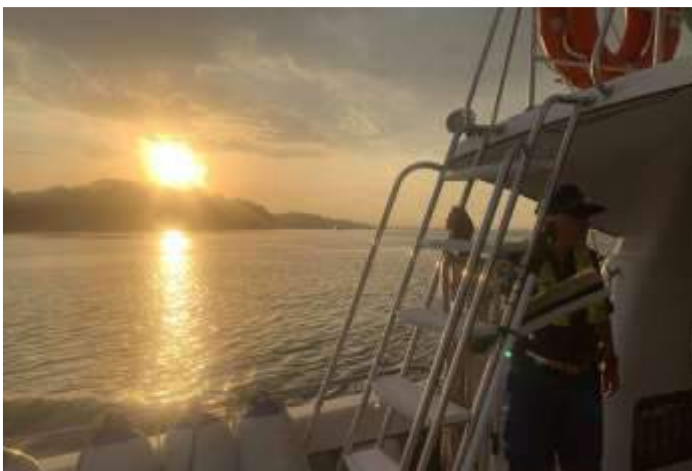
Iain Blackadder



UC Colin Foote and Commodore Bill Haskell

NIGHT OPERATIONS.

During 2018, our boats were sent out 105 times to assist people on the water. A number of operations were at night. On the water during the night, is a very different



experience to daylight hours. Naturally visibility is dramatically reduced, precise navigation is essential and disorientation can be an issue. It is important that we train in the dark. Our boat crew undertakes night training each month.

Training programmes include learning to operate in reduced light (red) and visibility, radar operation, FLIR Camera operation (Forward Looking Infrared Camera), navigation (including immediate recognition of navigation lights), towing in the dark etc. The foundation is safe operations.

Our programme included the crews of PS31 and PS30 navigating to Karuah on the Karuah River during low tide. During 2018, PS31 was twice tasked to this area during night hours while the busy Christmas/New Year period, saw crews tasked 5 times for night operations.

Iain Blackadder

Lighthouse Weddings



There is no more beautiful setting in Port Stephens to hold your wedding ceremony than the Nelson Head Lighthouse Reserve.

Your friends and family will also enjoy the spectacular views. Just imagine how beautiful your wedding photos will be!

To discuss availability, fees, your options and to make a booking please contact:

Wedding Co-Ordinator

Mobile: 0491 135 102

E mail: weddings.portstephens@gmail.com.

LIGHTHOUSE WEDDINGS



Left: Philippa and Mark Smith from Sydney, married 2 February.

Right: Rebecca and Jeffery Hazell from Newcastle, married 1 March.



Right: Hollie and Matthew Enright from Newcastle, married 22 February.



Right: Lauren and Duncan Moffitt from Muswellbrook, married 8 March.

Left: Nikkei and Heath Jones from Newcastle, married 2 March.



Right: Leah and Cindy Anderson from Nelson Bay, married 12 March.



As you can see we have been part of some beautiful Weddings these last two months. With just a few more to go, then nothing until after the winter months. We, the Wedding Team have had a great time being part of these special days.

Jenny Fitzsimons
Wedding Co-Ordinator

RFS LIAISON HUNTER VALLEY AND LOWER HUNTER

RFS LIAISON HUNTER VALLEY

Thankfully, this summer was not as bad as that of 2017-18 and the major fires that raged for weeks last year did not re-appear.

However, that did not mean that the volunteers in the



Hunter Valley District were not active. As shown in the stats for the last two months, there were still plenty of calls to MVAs, car fires, etc as well as the usual bush and grass fires. Plus in February there were contained blazes

at Mondundilla Range in Wollemi National Park south of Baerami Creek, Colonel Mountain north east of Muswellbrook and Three Poles in Yengo National Park west of Broke

As well, crews from Hunter Valley assisted firefighters in the Snowy Mountains in January, the Victorian high country in February and in the north of our State. Two members headed for Glen Innes and the district's largest bulk water carrier, of semi-trailer size, was sent up to where 22 homes had been lost. The crew were there for five days to assist Illawarra and Gosford tankers carrying water to wherever it was needed.

For a truly dramatic warning about when to leave and why you should have a Fireplan if you are adjacent to bush, click on this hyperlink.

<https://www.facebook.com/nswrfs/videos/339322386665016/?t=19>

Prepare. Act. Survive.

Colin Couper



Incidents handled by MRPS for LHRFS and HVRFS over the last two months

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Jan-19 | HVRFS | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 21 |
| Feb-19 | HVRFS | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 22 |
| Jan-19 | LHRFS | 23 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 19 | 8 | 18 | 100 |
| Feb-19 | LHRFS | 16 | 10 | 2 | 6 | 10 | 14 | 6 | 17 | 81 |
| Total | Jan/Feb | 47 | 26 | 10 | 18 | 27 | 38 | 16 | 42 | 224 |

RFS LIAISON LOWER HUNTER

January was quite a busy month but February was a bit quieter. In the last couple of months we have had two



activations of Fire Boat Delta for boat fires at Lemon Tree Passage. Fortunately they were called off on one occasion because the fire was extinguished by Tilligerry crew before they reached the fire. However it just proves that tools and fumes on board boats can be a very dangerous combination. The photos are of the aftermath of a

boat fire at Soldiers Point Marina previously

OUT OF PAGER RANGE: As I discovered on a night shift a few weeks ago, Baerami in Hunter Valley and Eccleston in Lower Hunter are out of pager range.

When you read this in the pager location folder, all you do is look in the List of Contacts folder for the relevant fire zone and ring the captain of the brigade and he will get the crew out.

Ross Debenham



BIRDS AROUND THE BASE

BIRDS AROUND THE BASE

Australian White Ibis (*Threskiornis moluccus*)

The Australian White Ibis is a large wading bird that is often seen feeding in flocks in parks, paddocks and rubbish

receptacles around Port Stephens. It is also known as the Sacred Ibis.

It is 65–75 cm in length and has a bald, black, featherless head and neck and a long

black down-curved bill measuring around 17 cm.

The body plumage is white although it may become brown-stained. Inner secondary plumes are displayed as lacy black 'tail' feathers. The upper tail becomes yellow when the bird is breeding. The legs and feet are dark and dull pink skin is visible on the underside of the

wing. This patch of skin changes to dark scarlet during breeding. Adult birds have a tuft of cream plumes on the base of the neck. Females differ from males by being slightly smaller, with shorter bills.

Young birds are similar to adults, but have the neck covered with black feathers.

The Australian white ibis is widespread in eastern, northern and south-western Australia. It occurs in marshy wetlands, swamps, lagoons, floodplains and often near open grasslands and has become common in east-coast city parks and rubbish dumps. It was historically rare in urban areas; and the first influx was noted after droughts in the late 1970s. The urban population further increased after a further period of drought in 1998. Destruction of habitat in rural areas has also contributed to its change of habitat. The Macquarie Marshes in north-western New South Wales was one of the main areas for breeding, but no birds have been reported breeding there since 2000.

The Australian White Ibis' range of food includes both terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates and human scraps. The most favoured foods are crayfish and mussels, which the bird obtains by digging with its long bill. Mussels are opened by hammering them on a hard surface to reveal the soft body inside.

Breeding season is generally August to November. The

male secures a pairing territory on a branch of a tall tree in order to attract a female. The courtship ceremony involves the male putting on a noisy display, as well as showing aggression towards other males. When a female arrives, the male attracts her by bowing from his branch. He then offers the female a twig, forging a bond when she grasps it and they begin to preen one another. Once the pair bond is cemented, the birds fly off to build a nest at another location.

The nest is a shallow dish-shaped platform of sticks, grasses or reeds, located in trees and generally near a body of water such as river, swamp or lake. Ibises commonly nest in large colonies, often in the company of other waterbirds such as egrets, herons, spoonbills or cormorants. Locally, nesting colonies are present in the

eastern end of the Shoal Bay swamp and the Wanda wetlands.

Two to three dull white eggs are laid measuring 65 × 44 mm and the clutch is incubated for 21–23 days.

Hatchlings are altricial and are fed by the parents for around 48 days before fledging. Birds reach sexual maturity in three years and can live for up to 28 years. In the non-breeding seas, birds form large flocks that forage across local paddocks, returning to common roost sites at night. In flight, flocks of Australian White Ibis form distinctive V-shaped flight patterns.

The arrival of the Australian White Ibis in coastal cities and towns has created a number of problems related to their habit of scavenging rubbish and their foul smell, particularly during the spring breeding season. In some city tourist precincts, unsuccessful attempts have been made to remove or relocate birds. Their habit of scavenging in rubbish bins and waste dumps has seen them colloquially named as 'bin chicken', 'dump chook', 'trash vulture' and 'tip turkey'. There has been debate in recent years over whether to consider them a pest or a possibly endangered species.

In Egypt, the Sacred Ibis was an object of religious veneration associated with the deity Djehut who is responsible for writing, mathematics, measurement and time as well as the moon and magic. Archaeologists have found the mummies of one and a half million ibis in Egyptian tombs.

Neil Fraser



SOCIAL COMMITTEE

WE BROKE THE DROUGHT!!!

Although this achievement was never on our list of outcomes, on 9 March – the eagerly anticipated first Marine Rescue Social function **Movie Under the Stars** occurred.

Having planned a night's entertainment placed in the great outdoors, it was always on the cards that Murphy and his old law might kick in. So being the well organised little social butterflies that we are, we implemented Plan B and relocated the Movie and Dinner Under the Stars night from the gorgeous Marine Rescue Nelson Head venue to the Norburn Avenue Community Hall.



from you in the future.

Darth Vader and a Jedi Knight in a pre-organised truce, handed out Easter Eggs to all chocolate lovers and then got back on their TIEFighter and X-wing and blasted back to whichever galaxy they came from.

Prolific and heartfelt thanks must go to Guy of **Guy's Choice Cuts Butchery** in Magnus Street, Nelson Bay for the supply, cooking, preparation and delivery of all our food for the evening – excepting the magnificent Jenny Frost Potato Salad. Guy was very generous in his pricing and used this opportunity to thank us in

a very financial and generous manner for having been



Thankfully many of our ticket holders made the transition safely and we were able to hold a successful night in our new location. We were extremely thankful to have been able to access this great back up venue. Thanks to Joy and her family for their help in arranging this.

The night began with a fun-filled and cuteness overload segment from **Complete Performing Arts** followed by the lovely Ruby Blume and Miss Mady doing a great tap number, Essie Bell and Ruby Blume performed an energetic jazz number and then the gorgeous Ready Set Ballerina's and Ballerino finished this lovely little interlude with their *Little Swan Dance*. Thank you to all those parents for bringing their dancers so that they could perform for us.

Miss Kiera Pizzuto entertained us with her beautiful piano renditions of *Faded by Alan Walker*, *Say Something* and *Skinny Love*. A very talented young lady, thank you Kiera we look forward to hearing more



assisted by Marine Rescue previously. As those who were able to attend can attest, the food was lovely and in great supply, we could have fed an army it was fabulous.

Port Stephens Coaches were also very supportive, with the donation of a bus and driver for the evening, for the purpose of ferrying passengers up the hill at Nelson Head to minimise parking issues. We appreciate their generous support.

Proul Productions provided the main entertainment for the night, a big thanks goes to James and the team for their

(Continued on page 31)

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

(Continued from page 30)

generous support of equipment the movie and operator.

Nelson Bay Cinema supported the event with a very popular popcorn dispenser. The movie was played after dinner, and again **Red Dog** did his job and a few of the audience members were seen to have moist eyes. This Aussie Classic once again proved good family entertainment.

We had some fabulous help from the Marine Rescue community and thanks must go to all those members instrumental in helping us relocate food, equipment etc



from Nelson Head to Norburn Ave when Plan B became unavoidable. Thanks also to both of our families and friends for their assistance. Laurie and Frank were great in their handover advice so we would like to thank them for their support and positivity. Jenny Frost was a great help, from the supply of the biggest potato salad in the Bay to the provision of extra transport she was there – Thanks Jen. Also to the UC – Colin Foote and DUC – Peter Merlino – thank you for assisting in everything administrative.

As our first venture into the facilitation of Marine Rescue Social Committee activities – Lisa (the main Ringmaster) and Heather (her intermittently able assistant) would like to thank all those members who purchased tickets and made the event such a success.



We are looking forward to our next adventure which will be sure to please, watch out for advertising.

Lisa Loding and Heather Perry-Comley



MRPS Social Committee 2019 schedule

| Month | Date | Event | Comments |
|-------|---------------|-----------------|---|
| May | Friday 24 May | RAAF Base Visit | Fully Booked Out (another visit may be organised later in the year) |

Year 2019 NSW Public School Holidays

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Autumn Holidays | 13-Apr-19 | 28-Apr-19 |
| Winter Holidays | 6-Jul-19 | 21-Jul-19 |
| Spring Holidays | 28-Sep-19 | 13-Oct-19 |
| Summer Holidays | 21-Dec-19 | 27-Jan-20 |

ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS

Service Anniversaries

Congratulations and thanks to all the following members of the PORT STEPHENS UNIT who have given their time and service as volunteers so willingly. Our existence depends on it.

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------|----|------------------|----|------------------|---|------------------|---|
| APRIL | | Doug CRAIKE | 1 | Frank VAN DRUTEN | 7 | Gail LINDWALL | 2 |
| Peter BLISS | 13 | Alan WOODWARD | 1 | Iain BLACKADDER | 6 | Jenni FRYER | 2 |
| Di BAILLIE | 9 | Will SCOTT | 1 | Matt DARBY | 5 | Greg WALSH | 2 |
| Lee RYMAN | 9 | John WOODBRIDGE | 1 | Peter BALDWIN | 4 | Krystyna WINSLOW | 2 |
| Brian RICHARDSON | 9 | MAY | | Jenny FROST | 4 | Peter NASH | 1 |
| Mary GUTRY | 8 | Harold GIBSON | 34 | Steve PICTON | 4 | John LEE | 1 |
| Charles TRAA | 4 | Eryl THOMAS | 20 | Marg MORRISON | 3 | Andrew MORRISON | 1 |
| Seleana POWELL | 2 | Dieter GREITER | 11 | Rena GARDINER | 3 | | |
| Geoff WILLIAMS | 2 | Jenny FITZSIMONS | 10 | Brett CHERRY | 3 | | |
| Allan MILLS | 2 | Trevor MOXHAM | 7 | Heather HASKETT | 2 | | |

Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following members of the PORT STEPHENS UNIT with birthdays in April and May

APRIL

Allan MILLS
Eileen KELLY
Noel CORCORAN
Colin COUPER
Trevor BRIGHTON
Judi PRIESTLEY
Rex ATKINS
Geoff ADAMS
Harry McNAMARA
Robert JOHNSON
Robyn WINTER

Paul SULLIVAN
Fred HARVEY
Neil KEARTON

MAY

Pam SMITH
Ken ROSS-SAMPSON
Louise MOORE
Harold GIBSON
Pam WALTERS
Colleen SESSIONS
Charles TRAA
Gail LINDWALL

Bobby MENDOZA
Kevin GRIFFEY
Ian JAMES
Penelope HIGHLAND
Stephen ALTA
Lee UEBERGANG
Frank VAN DRUTEN
Robert STEWART
Mike BROWN
Wayne NEWTON



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PORT STEPHENS WEATHER

Nelson Bay, NSW - February 2019

| Date | Day | Temps | | Rain mm |
|------|-----|-------|------|------------|
| | | Min | Max | |
| | | °C | °C | |
| 1 | Fr | 16 | 24.9 | 1.2 |
| 2 | Sa | 19.5 | 29 | 3.4 |
| 3 | Su | 20.9 | 28.4 | 0.1 |
| 4 | Mo | 19.6 | 30 | 0 |
| 5 | Tu | 19.8 | 28.2 | 0 |
| 6 | We | 19.2 | 28.8 | 0 |
| 7 | Th | 18.5 | 28.2 | 0 |
| 8 | Fr | 22 | 28.8 | 0 |
| 9 | Sa | 20.2 | 28.4 | 8.1 |
| 10 | Su | 19.5 | 25.5 | 2.8 |
| 11 | Mo | 19.8 | 27.3 | 0 |
| 12 | Tu | 19.8 | 34.7 | 0 |
| 13 | We | 19.8 | 25 | 0 |
| 14 | Th | | 26.8 | 0 |
| 15 | Fr | 19.5 | 28.2 | 0 |
| 16 | Sa | 19.5 | 28.6 | 0 |
| 17 | Su | 19.5 | 27.7 | 0 |
| 18 | Mo | 20.9 | 28.5 | 0 |
| 19 | Tu | 20.6 | 29 | 0 |
| 20 | We | 20.5 | 29.3 | 0.1 |
| 21 | Th | 21 | 27.3 | 3.6 |
| 22 | Fr | 21.5 | 25.5 | 0.6 |
| 23 | Sa | 20 | 25.4 | 1 |
| 24 | Su | 19.7 | 25.1 | 3.8 |
| 25 | Mo | 15.1 | 27 | 0 |
| 26 | Tu | 18.3 | 27.4 | 2 |
| 27 | We | | 28.5 | 0 |
| 28 | Th | 20.5 | 28.8 | 0 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Statistics for February 2019

| | | | |
|---------|------|------|------|
| Mean | 19.7 | 27.9 | |
| Lowest | 15.1 | 24.9 | 0 |
| Highest | 22 | 34.7 | 8.1 |
| Total | | | 26.7 |

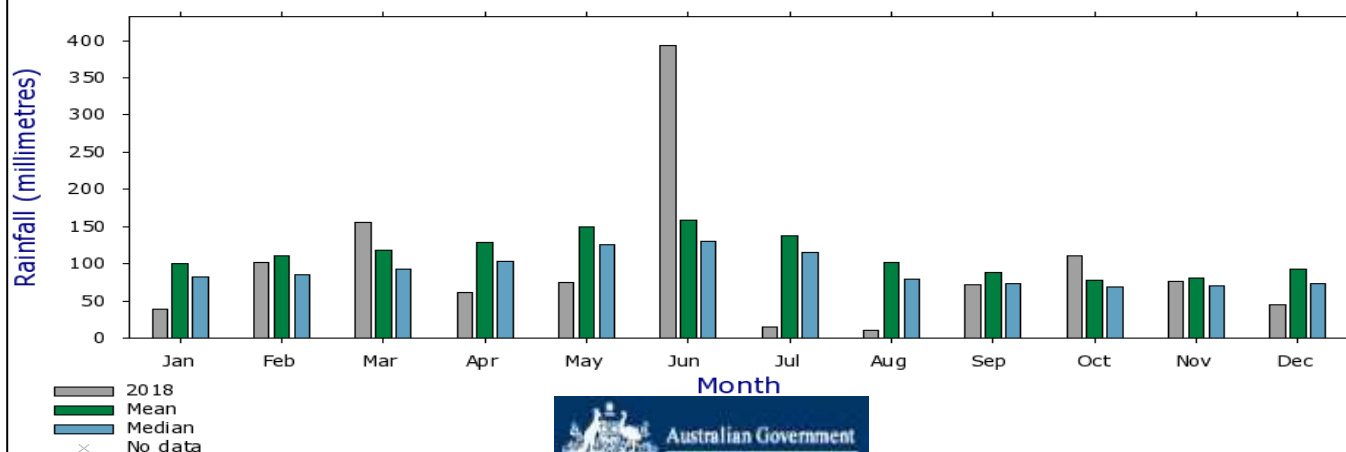
Nelson Bay, NSW - March 2019

| Date | Day | Temps | | Rain mm |
|------|-----|-------|------|------------|
| | | Min | Max | |
| | | °C | °C | |
| 1 | Fr | 21 | 29 | 0.5 |
| 2 | Sa | 20.5 | 28.2 | 8 |
| 3 | Su | 21 | 27.6 | 0 |
| 4 | Mo | 20.9 | 27.6 | 0 |
| 5 | Tu | 19 | 27.5 | 0 |
| 6 | We | 17.6 | 30.5 | 0 |
| 7 | Th | 19.5 | 22 | 1 |
| 8 | Fr | 19 | 25.9 | 1 |
| 9 | Sa | | 29.1 | 0 |
| 10 | Su | 20.6 | 27.6 | 7.4 |
| 11 | Mo | 21.8 | 27.6 | 0 |
| 12 | Tu | 21.6 | 29.8 | 0 |
| 13 | We | 21.7 | 25.9 | 0 |
| 14 | Th | 18.9 | 25.6 | 0 |
| 15 | Fr | 18.6 | 24.5 | 4.1 |
| 16 | Sa | 18 | 21.7 | 1.7 |
| 17 | Su | 18.4 | 24.3 | 23.3 |
| 18 | Mo | 18.8 | 25.8 | 0.9 |
| 19 | Tu | 18.5 | 25.9 | 12.7 |
| 20 | We | 19.2 | 26.2 | 14.6 |
| 21 | Th | 19.4 | 26.5 | 3.2 |
| 22 | Fr | 19.2 | 27.5 | 1 |
| 23 | Sa | 17.8 | 27.2 | 0 |
| 24 | Su | 19.3 | 29.4 | 5 |
| 25 | Mo | 21.6 | 25 | 3 |
| 26 | Tu | 19.4 | 26.1 | 2.1 |
| 27 | We | 19 | 26 | 0 |
| 28 | Th | 18 | 27.2 | 0 |
| 29 | Fr | 18.5 | 27 | 0 |
| 30 | Sa | 17.8 | 27.1 | 22.4 |
| 31 | Su | 14.3 | 20.6 | 0 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Statistics for March 2019

| | | | |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| Mean | 19.3 | 26.5 | |
| Lowest | 14.30 | 20.60 | 0.00 |
| Highest | 21.80 | 30.50 | 23.3 |
| Total | | | 111.9 |

Nelson Bay (Nelson Head) (061054) 2018 Rainfall (millimetres)



Note: Data may not have completed quality control

Climate Data Online, Bureau of Meteorology
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MARINE RESCUE PORT STEPHENS

"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally"



Our service to Port Stephens 2005-2018

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| People saved/ assisted | 5,404 |
| Rescues and assists | 2,419 |
| Value of vessels saved | \$245M+ |
| Rescue Crew volunteer hours | 56,000+ |
| Radio Base volunteer hours | 284,700+ |
| Radio calls made/received | 292,168 |
| Telephone calls made/received | 268,145 |

Every day, Marine Rescue Port Stephens Members give more than 60 volunteer hours to serve our community

Volunteers saving lives on the water

IN APPRECIATION....

Contributors to this issue of *Port Chatter*:

Stephen Alta, Iain Blackadder, Colin Couper, Ross Debenham, Jenny Fitzsimons, Colin Foote, Neil Fraser, Harold Gibson, Kevin Griffey, Lisa Lodding, Peter Merlino, Tony O'Donnell, Heather Perry-Comley, Barney Pinney, Brian Richardson, Maureen Wheatley and Peter Young. Other photos by Stephen Alta, Ross Debenham, and Tony O'Donnell. You too can become a contributor and you will be most welcome. See inside front cover.

Distributors of the *Port Chatter*: This Monthly newsletter does not arrive in your letter-box via the tooth fairy. The following people give of their time (and petrol) in making deliveries. Distribution Co-Ordinator: Ross Debenham, Maureen Wheatley, Peter Merlino, Elizabeth Francis, Marian Chappell, and Deb Nolan.

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Please show your appreciation by giving them your custom.

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|------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
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| | | Shoal Bay Pharmacy |
| | | Terry White Chemart Pharmacy, Nelson Bay |
| Funeral Services | | France Family Funerals |
| Maritime | Marina | D'Albora Marina and businesses |
| | | Soldiers Point Marina |
| | Boating Sales and Repairs | Nelson Bay Outboard Services |
| | Fishing Supplies | Duff's Salamander Bait & Tackle (at Coles Express) |
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| | | Inner Light Tea Rooms, Nelson Head |
| Radio Station | | Port Stephens FM 100.9 |



NEXT UNIT MEETING

TUESDAY 16 APRIL 2019

TUESDAY 14 MAY 2019

All Members
Welcome

All members are welcome to come and meet fellow members of
Marine Rescue Port Stephens.

Important information on operational matters will be discussed.

Food and refreshments provided.

MARINE RESCUE NSW PORT STEPHENS RESCUE VESSELS CURRENTLY IN SERVICE

The unit currently has two purpose built, specialised rescue vessels, crewed by motivated and trained volunteers who can be called upon at anytime, day or night, to head to the assistance of those who call.

A response time of 20 mins or less is estimated from alert to heading to sea. Our vessels boast a comprehensive inventory of the latest navigation, communication, safety and rescue technologies on board.

PORT STEPHENS RESCUE VESSEL *PORT STEPHENS 31*

JOHN THOMPSON



Specifications

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Make / Model: | Steber International 38' - Category 3 SAR Vessel |
| Length: | 11.46m (38ft) |
| Beam: | 3.84m (12.6ft) |
| Displacement: | 11.6 tonne |
| Draft: | 1m |
| Fuel: | 1350L |
| Engines: | Twin 420hp Yanmar diesel |
| Top Speed: | 30kn |
| Crew: | Operational - normally 4 |
| VHF: | Sailor 6222 |
| Radar: | Raymarine RD418HD 4 KW |
| MFD's (Multifunction Display): | ES125-12" x 3, ES9-9" x 1 |
| AIS: | Raymarine AIS950 |
| RDF: | Taiyo |
| 27Mhz: | GME GX400B |
| DCN: | Tait TM9300 |

Rescue Vessel Port Stephens 31 John Thompson was built by Steber International, Taree, NSW and completed in May 2016. Her single hull is made of glass-reinforced plastic.

Port Stephens 31 is fitted with state-of-the-art radar, direction finding and navigation equipment as well as forward looking infra red search equipment.

John Thompson has been prepared to Marine Rescue NSW specifications with minor customisation at the request of Port Stephens Unit and is capable of covering Port Stephens and anywhere along the coast for example Broughton Island, Seal Rocks and 30nm out to sea or further if tasked by MACSAR.

**PORT STEPHENS RESCUE VESSEL *PORT STEPHENS 30*
*CODI-K II***



Specifications:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Make / Model: | Gemini WR-850 |
| Type: | Rigid-Hull Inflatable (RHIB) |
| Length: | 8.5m |
| Beam: | 2.8m |
| Engines: - | 2 x Suzuki four-stroke Outboards 200hp each (150kW) |
| Fuel Capacity: | 2 x 200 litre tanks |
| Fuel Consumption: | Cruising speed - 50 litres / hour |
| Displacement: | 3.2 tonnes |
| Survey: | 2C |
| Crew: | 4 operational |
| Speed: | Top speed around 40 knots. Cruising speed 25 to 30 knots. |

Rescue Vessel Port Stephens 30 Codi-K II was manufactured in South Africa, prepared by Britton Marine of Taren Point NSW, and completed in February 2012. Her single hull is made of glass-reinforced plastic with alloy longitudinal keel reinforcement and her cabin is glass-reinforced plastic.

She boasts among her electronic equipment a Raymarine Radar/Plotter, Furuno AIS Class-A and FLIR Thermal Night Vision System.

Codi-K II has been prepared to Port Stephens Unit specifications in consultation with Marine Rescue NSW, and is capable of covering all of the areas of Port Stephens; ie, the Myall River system, Karuah River, and the other shallow areas of our waterways, as well as outside waters as required.



Teramby Road, Nelson Bay
 Phone: 02 4984 1333
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“Have you visited d’Albora Marinas Nelson Bay recently?

IT IS SO MUCH MORE THAN A PLACE TO MOOR”

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
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| Boat Hire and Cruise Bookings | 02 4984 3843 | Oysters on the Bay | 0427 269 731 |
| Broughtons at the Bay | 02 4981 0865 | Noakes Boatyard | 02 4984 4150 |
| Cafe & Convenience on the Bay | 02 4981 0921 | Pacific Water Colours | 02 4984 1922 |
| Corner Secrets | 02 4981 1160 | Popeyes Laundromat | 02 4984 1333 |
| Hogs Breath Cafe | 02 4984 2842 | Sandbar Seafood | 02 4984 3777 |
| R Marine Port Stephens | 02 4984 2355 | Subway | 02 4984 4277 |
| Lets Go Adventures | 02 4981 4331 | The Wood Oven Pizza | 02 4984 4800 |
| Marina Ice Creamery | 02 4984 1788 | Tin Tin Eatery | 02 4981 5883 |