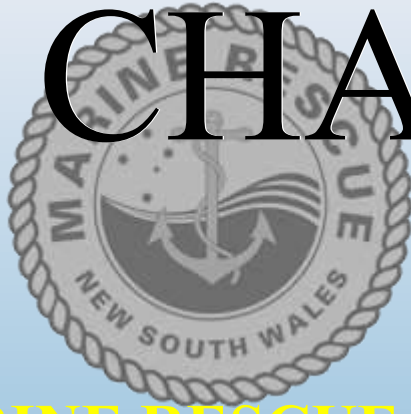


# PORT CHATTER



APRIL 2018

## MARINE RESCUE NSW PORT STEPHENS UNIT



*"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally"*





## 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 district
- 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, sea observations 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.



# Marine Rescue NSW Members...

Your boat Must have a First Aid Kit  
Especially if it is Patrol Registered.  
Remember, a First Aid Kit is only as good as its contents quality  
When was yours last checked?  
We will check yours FREE !!  
We will give a 5% Cash Back Donation to the Patrol from First Aid Kit Sales.



**SALAMANDER CENTRE  
PHARMACY**  
Phone: (02) 4982 7644

## DUFF'S SALAMANDER BAIT & TACKLE

SINCE 1990



**COLES EXPRESS SERVO**  
1/163 SALAMANDER WAY  
(02) 4982 0711



SHIMANO



Mustad



Gamakatsu

WWW.SALAMANDERBAITTACKLE.COM.AU



## ABODE DECORATING

Family Business for 75 Years – in Nelson Bay for 25 Years  
Qualified and Certified Painting and Decorating Tradesmen

Specialising in:

- Painting
- Wallpapering
- High Pressure Water Blast cleaning
- Roof Restorations
- Minor Repairs

*"...I'm proud to be YOUR painter  
...selected by Marine Rescue  
Port Stephens"*

Obligation free quotes -  
MRNSW and Pensioners  
discounts

Contact Dennis  
mobile 0402 226 611 phone 4982 0744

## FROM THE BRIDGE

### UNIT COMMANDER

Welcome to the second edition of Port Chatter for 2018. There is much to report with the Unit continuing to support the boating and broader community in fine style.

On 12 February the Executive Committee and I travelled to Cronulla for our much anticipated visit to the HQ of MRNSW. The visit was relaxed and involved all staff from HQ. Commissioner Tannos ESM was very generous with his time and briefed us on the broad range of activities he is engaged in with the NSW Government and other emergency services. There were several one-on-one discussions which resolved several issues as well as helping to strengthen the relationships between individuals and between HQ and the Unit. It was a very positive visit and well worth the long drive there and back.

A lot of time has been dedicated over the last few months to the dock facilities project. The project scope is the design, construction and fit out of a boat shed mounted on a floating pontoon. The boat shed will be used as an office, for storage, crew briefings, and as a covered work area and charging station for our battery jump starters. The shed will have sufficient solar power to trickle-feed both rescue vessels and keep them fully charged. The pontoon construction has been completed by Dynaplas and the pontoon will be with the Varley Group by the time you read this. Varley will construct a mounting frame on the pontoon, construct the shed on the frame, fit it out and move everything to Nelson Bay by road where it will be slipped into the water and towed into position at our dock.

This project is being funded by a grant from Wests Nelson Bay of \$25,000 and numerous donations



courtesy of lobbying by our Patron The Hon Bob Baldwin. Bob

has obtained pledges of donations of \$49,500 with much of it having already been received. At this stage the Unit's contribution will be minimal. Neil and I are working on a dedication ceremony in early June to open the shed and recognise the outstanding support the Unit has received from Wests Nelson Bay and our new sponsors. My thanks go to The Hon Bob Baldwin for his outstanding lobbying, Wests Nelson Bay and Tim Boyle and Ian Peacock who have managed the design and construction activities.

By now you should have received several emails relating to the Unit Elections being held for the positions of Unit Commander and Deputy Unit Commander. Nominations close at 1700 hrs on Tuesday 17 April. The election will be held at the Members Meeting on Tuesday 19 June. Nominations should be sent to John Reid (Returning Officer). The Unit Commander and Deputy Unit Commander are vital to the ongoing development of this Unit so it's important that as many candidates as possible nominate for the positions. Choice is healthy!!

On 7 March I assembled a group of senior experienced Comms Centre Watch Officers - whom I referred to as "the elders". (This was received with mixed reactions!!) We discussed the challenges we face in getting trainees qualified as Marine Radio Operators and then as Watch Officers. We also focused on the requirements to become a Watchkeeper. The training requirements to achieve the ratings of Marine Radio Operators and Watch Officers are arduous and require a fair deal of dedication and effort by trainees. These requirements are mandated by MRNSW so trainees must meet them. My responsibility and that of the Training Group is to ensure trainees have a good understanding of what is expected of them and how the Unit will support their training and development endeavours. One critical component is the on-the-job training that Watchkeepers and other Marine Radio Operators should be providing to trainees on shifts. As a generality, we need to do better in this regard. Everyone who is currently qualified had help to learn the skills they have. Its pay-back time!!

Training and development of staff is important but so is the Unit's ability to fill the rosters to keep the Comms Centre open 24/7. After four hours of frank and open discussions I had a general feeling for how we should attack our challenges. Stay tuned for slight changes that will impact trainees, Comms Centre staff and rosters.

### Anzac Day March 2018.

Since 2013 members of Marine Rescue Port Stephens have participated in the ANZAC Day commemoration

activities in Nelson Bay and they will again as a Unit in 2018. Participation is open to any Member or ex-Member of MRNSW who is:

- a returned veteran
- an ex-service man or woman
- a current serving member of the ADF
- any member of our Unit who wishes to March in honour of a departed family veteran



The March will commence approximately 1030 hrs at the Nelson Bay Bowling Club and move down through Stockton Street to Apex Park, followed by a short memorial service. Marchers will assemble at 1015 hrs in the car park of the Nelson Bay Bowling Club. After the March a wreath will be laid on behalf of the Unit.

If you wish to be part of the marching contingent please contact the Unit Commander on [0428 813 585](tel:0428813585). Otherwise, why not attend as a spectator to cheer the Unit on?

(Continued on page 7)



# Dine & Save!



## 20% OFF YOUR FOOD BILL 7 DAYS A WEEK!\*

\*Surrender voucher to receive discount. Not valid with Frequent Diner / Hog's Squad Card, Kids Eat Free, Lunches From \$9.90 or any other offer or discount. Applies to food only. 1 voucher per table/booking. Max discount \$50. Valid for lunch or dinner until 31/03/2016.

**HOGS**  
Australia's Steakhouses  
SINCE 1959

NELSON BAY Upper d'Albora Marinas Ph 4984 2842   

## BUY 1 MAIN MEAL GET 1 50% OFF!\*

\*Not valid with Frequent Diner / Hog's Squad Card, Kids Eat Free, \$9.90 Lunches or any other offer / discount. Surrender voucher to redeem. Limit of 1 offer per coupon, per table, per guest, per day. Discounted meal is of equal or lesser value. Valid for lunch or dinner until 31/03/2016.

**HOGS**  
Australia's Steakhouses  
SINCE 1959

NELSON BAY Upper d'Albora Marinas Ph 4984 2842   

## KIDS EAT FREE!\*

\*One complimentary kid's meal for each adult purchasing a meal over \$20. Children must be 12 years of age or under and ordering from the Kid's Menu. All extras and sides, including extra soft drinks, are charged for. Kids Eat Free is not valid with Frequent Diner / Hog's Squad Card or any other offer / discount. Surrender voucher to redeem. Valid for lunch or dinner until 31/03/2016.

**HOGS**  
Australia's Steakhouses  
SINCE 1959

NELSON BAY Upper d'Albora Marinas Ph 4984 2842   

## BUY 2 TRADITIONAL PRIME RIB MEALS & GET 1x 750ml BOTTLE OF WINE OR 1 x BUCKET OF 4 BEERS FOR FREE!\*

\*Not valid with Frequent Diner / Hog's Squad Card, Kids Eat Free, \$9.90 Lunches or any other offer / discount. Surrender voucher to redeem. Limit of 1 offer per coupon, per table, per guest, per day. Value of beer or wine is up to \$30. Valid for lunch or dinner until 31/03/2016.

**HOGS**  
Australia's Steakhouses  
SINCE 1959

NELSON BAY Upper d'Albora Marinas Ph 4984 2842   



## FROM THE BRIDGE.....

(Continued from page 5)

That's enough for this edition of Port Chatter. Thanks for your support, keep up the good work and see you at the Base.

**Lee Uebergang**

**"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally"**



### DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

By the time you read this we will have had 65,000 "hits" on our website since it was revamped to make it the most informative site in Marine Rescue NSW. New material is added to the website every week and it is your one stop shop for rosters and signing up to volunteer at fund raising activities.

MR Port Stephens members can go to the "Members Area" at the base of the home page by clicking on it and using the password. If you cannot remember the password contact the Comms Centre.

The website is a source of information for members and the public in relation to real time weather and pictures and information on the Unit and its history.

#### Collection Boxes

Stephen Alta is continuing to do a great job keeping on top of our collection boxes. He is assisted by the team who bring the boxes back regularly and have the contents counted in the base. Colin Couper keeps track of the boats at the base where we gain our greatest donations.

If a box isn't producing results Stephen moves it to a place where it can, and this is happening almost every week.

The proceeds from the collection boats has returned to the levels when cash was king!

We have looked at the electronic donation terminals but they are not suitable for other than the Comms Centre, as our boxes aren't in areas of high traffic like airports and shopping malls.

November to January is a peak time for Hog's in the Bay. If you want a wholesome feed, pick up the discount vouchers from the base of from the previous page.

#### Port Chatter

Do you realise that Port Chatter is available to almost 1,000 people?

Penelope and Frank do an outstanding job to produce bi-monthly of what is clearly the best Unit magazine in NSW and probably Australia.

Our costs of Port Chatter have been dramatically reduced as we are only now mailing a small number of copies with the vast majority downloading their copy in colour from

the website link and our trusty delivery team doing the rest. For every copy we don't have to print we are saving over \$4.

#### Gift Shop

After the busy Christmas/Holiday period the Gift Shop was able to donate \$23,000 and a further \$3,000 in March to the Unit's funds.

Along with our payments from RFS, the Gift Shop is the mainstay of funding the Unit's annual operations. If only we had another well run "business" like the Gift Shop. To put the Gift Shop contribution into proportion it produces more for the Unit than 50 Bunnings Barbeques.

#### Grants

A major requirement in obtaining Grants is the ever increasing administrative requirements - firstly to get the grant, then to account for the expenditure to the donor and MRNSW.

We have just acquitted the generous \$5000 grant received from Wests - using these funds to upgrade the base broadband capability. The funds were utilised to provide the Comms Centre with a faster and more secure connection allowing our VOIP functionality to become more reliable and robust.

We were faced with raising over \$40,000 after the Wests Nelson Bay grant of \$25,000 to build and equip a floating facility at our dock to support our rescue vessels.

Our Patron, The Hon Bob Baldwin took up this challenge and was able to raise the necessary \$40,000 from new and some existing donors. This will mean that the provision of this long overdue vital support facility will be available and we will not have had to call on the Unit's reserves

#### Fundraising

New member Peter Young took up the challenge of coordinating our increasing fund-raising activities.

Peter has pulled together a team to do the Bunnings barbeques, raffle sales at Trailer Boat Fishing Competition and Sail

Port Stephens in addition to working alongside RMS on a second Flare Collection Day. We will also work alongside BCF at Heatherbrae on their members night. Have you bought your tickets in our raffle at the Base, Gift Shop, Cottage and at our fundraising events?

The Seafood Raffle nights are well supported in their

(Continued on page 9)





# TerryWhite Chemmart

- Pharmaceutical advice
- Home medication reviews
- Webster packing of medication
- Health services check (Inc. blood pressure and cholesterol check)
- Free home delivery
- Flu vaccinations
- DNA testing
- Impromy weight loss management program
- Hire of medical equipment
- Sleep Apnoea testing
- Open 7 days

**18 Stockton Street, Nelson Bay**

**Phone (02) 4984 2445**

# NOVUS AUTO GLASS

- ☑ Windscreen Replacements
- ☑ Stone Chip & Crack Repairs
- ☑ Glass & Perspex Cut to Size
- ☑ Side & Rear Glass
- ☑ Mobile Service

## 4982 7474

**3 George Road Salamander Bay**

## Soldiers Point Marina

PORT STEPHENS NSW

### *The Ultimate Resort Marina*

This is where you will enjoy marina living at its best. By setting new standards with our luxuriously appointed amenities, world class facilities and services beyond your expectations, we want your stay with us at our prestigious boutique resort marina to be an unforgettable experience.

25 minutes from Newcastle Airport  
Award winning restaurants, coffee shop, beauty therapist, marine centre, boat broker, boat hire, sailing school

#### SCULPTURE WALK

Dotted throughout the Soldiers Point Marina precinct, is an expanding collection of carefully selected vibrant outdoor sculptures by celebrated Australian artists. From eclectic to traditional these pieces will catch your eye and start some interesting conversations



**SOLDIERS POINT MARINA**  
Port Stephens • NSW • Australia

Sunset Boulevard, Soldiers Point NSW 2317 P: (02) 4982 7445  
E: [db@soldiersptmarina.com.au](mailto:db@soldiersptmarina.com.au) W: [www.soldiersptmarina.com.au](http://www.soldiersptmarina.com.au)

*Much moor than a place to moor your boat.*



## FROM THE BRIDGE.... AND SROCP COURSE

(Continued from page 7)

manning by our members. It is a pity the same old faces continue to put their hands up on every occasion.

In some Units EVERY member has to do four fundraising events per year to get the money in to keep the unit viable. We are not going to introduce a policy like that, however if every member gave 4 x 4 hour sessions per year we could do over 400 days of fundraising per year.

I commend you to ask yourself if you can help Peter in getting these activities covered.

In coming months we will take part in the Running of a Walk-a-Thon which should make a big contribution to the Unit. Watch for details and please help us on the Day.

### Facebook

Our presence on Facebook continues to generate very large numbers of "likes" and people following the up to date coverage of what we are doing.

It isn't uncommon for a post on Facebook to be viewed by

over 10,000 people and over 4,000 are following us. Tony O'Donnell has done a great job. If only Facebook posts could be turned into donations.

### SROCP

After many requests we will be running Radio Courses for the public from June. This is a combined activity of our training and fundraising teams.

To overcome Saturday parking congestion at the Base, Soldiers Point Bowling Club will allow us to use their facilities for free.

Nigel Eves will deliver the course with Peter Young coordinating the venues etc. Our pricing will match that of other units and it is a good fundraiser as well as a community safety service. Bookings will be via the website.

**Neil Hansford**



## BE QUALIFIED TO OPERATE YOUR MARINE VHF RADIO

In the interests of boating safety, Marine Rescue Port Stephens will run a marine radio Certificate of Proficiency course on **Saturday 23 June 2018**. It is a one day course commencing at 0900 to 1400 and includes the exam and the practical.

Further details can be found, and applications made on the Marine Rescue Port Stephens website

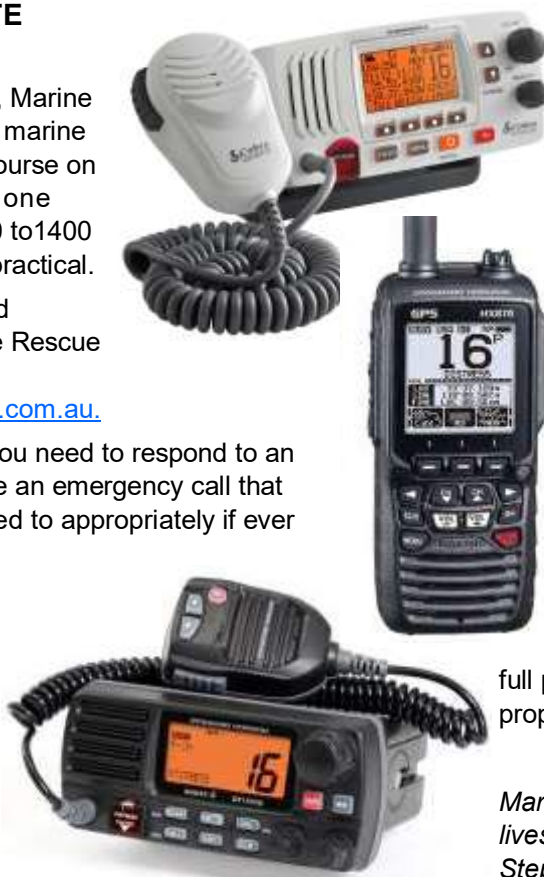
[www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au](http://www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au).

You will learn what to do when you need to respond to an emergency call and how to make an emergency call that can be understood and responded to appropriately if ever you become endangered on the water. You will also learn how to log on and off with Marine Rescue Units up and down the NSW coastline.

Upon enrolment you will receive the Marine Radio Handbook to study in addition to a Marine Rescue Port Stephens simplified USB Learners Guide to allow home study on your computer prior to the examination day.

On the day of the examination you will receive two hours of course revision followed by the Examination provided by the sole Examination body, AMC (Australian Maritime College), then each enrollee will receive a hands-on practical examination as required by the examination body.

Courses will be held at Soldiers Point Bowling Club, 118



Soldiers Point Road, Soldiers Point. The enrolment fee of \$220 includes the cost of the Handbook and examination fee and licence issued by AMC.

You will also receive a Certificate of Proficiency issued on behalf of ACMA (Australian Communications and Media Authority) to operate a VHF marine radio. This course does not qualify operators for HF radios.

This course will give you the skills that are essential for the confident and responsible use of a VHF marine radio. Having a marine radio on-board is a requirement to operate in offshore waters.

A marine radio will never reach its full potential unless you know how to use it properly.

*Marine Rescue Port Stephens – saving lives on the waters in and off Port Stephens.*

**Soldiers**  
POINT BOWLING CLUB LTD



# Port Stephens Tyre Service

*Where there is great value for money*

FOR ALL YOUR TYRE NEEDS JUST  
CALL 4981 1291

FOR PERSONALISED ATTENTION

## ***TYRES AT GREAT PRICES***

Avon	Michelin	Barum	Firestone	Hancock	
Dunlop	Goodyear	Pirelli	Olympic	Toyo	Yokohama

**Experience our GREAT Sales and Service that includes:**

Electronic wheel balancing/computer controlled wheel alignments

## **FINGAL BAY SERVICE STATION**

LOW PRICE PETROL AND DIESEL

MECHANICAL REPAIRS, CASTROL OIL AND  
LUBES AUTHORISED INSPECTION STATION

We serve you with a smile, so you leave  
with a smile.





## CORPORATE SERVICES AND GIFT SHOP

### ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

#### Administration

The timetable for the election process for the new UC and DUC has been released and the Returning Officer has been appointed. Nominations have been called for these two positions and a copy of this form has been placed on the Notice Board in the Comms Centre kitchen. Please note that nominations for both positions close at 5pm on Tuesday 17 April.

#### Membership

As detailed in the last edition of Port Chatter the Information Night for potential members held on 18 January was a great success with 45 people attending. Since that evening interviews have been held with 27 people and an Induction evening held on 2 February for 28 new members. These members are now being absorbed into the various areas of the Unit and are starting training courses and Comms Centre shifts. As you meet these new members in your daily activities at the Base please assist them in their assimilation into the Unit and make them feel welcome.

Another Information Night is scheduled for Thursday 19 April and we are hopeful of recruiting further new members for this event.

#### Technical Services

The air fibre link between the Base and the Ramada Hotel

at Shoal Bay has been completed and is now operational. This is the final step in our changeover to digital communications and provides a fail-safe system for our communications.

#### Building & Facilities

The 2nd flagpole has suffered a mishap with a bracket being broken with the result that only two flags can be flown at the one time. An order has been placed for a small flagpole to replace this one. The issue of the main flagpole will be addressed when we have the 2nd pole replaced.

Quotes have been sought for an automatic fire suppression system in the John Weir room at the rear of the Comms Centre and a decision on this system will be made at the next Executive meeting.

#### WH&S/Security

A new LOP on Emergency Evacuation procedures has been approved (LOP OPS 104 v1) and some minor changes are being prepared to add to this LOP. All Watchkeepers and MRO's should familiarise themselves with this LOP so that they are aware of the actions required in the event of an evacuation.

*John Reid*



Our guest speaker on 8 March was our Unit Commander Lee Uebergang. Lee spoke to us about the time he spent with the United Nations Mine Clearance Training Team in Afghanistan. Lee and his fellow unit were involved in clearing Land Mines and training the locals. It was a very interesting talk.

Unit Commander Lee invited Loris Webster, Penelope Highland and myself to the International Women's Day Breakfast, held at the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens Heatherbrae. It was another interesting morning.

The Gift Shop has been very busy with the arrival of new stock, and the ladies have been very busy unpacking.

With Easter fast approaching and the School holidays soon after, we hope to be very busy in the Gift Shop.

*Sandra Scheuber*



Di Baillie presenting UC Lee Uebergang with a thank you gift after his interesting talk.

## Nelson Bay Locksmith

Keys cut while you wait,  
Engraving, Trophies and  
Name Badges also supplied

Daniel Mackenzie (Locksmith)

Shop 2, 59 Donald Street

NELSON BAY 2315

Phone 24hrs: 4981 3428

Member of the Master Locksmiths Assoc. of Australia



VISIT  
MARINE RESCUE PORT  
STEPHENS FACEBOOK PAGE

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MRPRTSE](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MRPRTSE)

For up-to-date news of activities  
and events

 **OUTDOOR**  
*Obsessions*  
4982 2597

Weber Specialist  
dealers and stock  
'Shelta' Outdoor  
furniture and  
Umbrella

Address: Unit 1/9 Shearwater Drive Taylors Beach 2316

Your advertisement  
could appear here.

Email the Editor  
[editor.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au](mailto:editor.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au)  
or phone 4981-3585

## SHOAL BAY PHARMACY

Pharmacist Advice



Ph: 4981 1247 OPEN 7 DAYS



### Don't ignore the snore...

Our Pharmacy offers a simple test for sleep apnea that  
you can undertake in your own home. Please ask our  
friendly pharmacist for more information

Did you know that if you have sleep apnea you are:

- 7 times more likely to have heart disease
- More likely to have a stroke
- More likely to have a car accident
- More likely to have problems controlling your diabetes

If you already have a Sleep Apnea machine, it is recommended  
that it be cleaned every 6 months.



## OPERATIONS

### OPERATIONS OFFICER

#### **(Comms Centre, Rescue Vessels and Duty Callout Officers)**

In line with our Vision of Savings Lives at Sea, the Operations functions of Marine Rescue Port Stephens is to respond to distress calls received from the boating public and to manage our systems which assist the safety of those on the water.

Statistics are the pointers which reveal how active we are and how we serve those on the water.

Very few people witness the Comms Centre at work and even fewer see our Rescue Vessels saving lives at sea.

A bare handful of people would know that our Duty Callout Officers (DCO's) are making phone calls at any hour of the day or night summoning crew and liaising with the Water Police. Our members do not look for praise (just like most volunteer organisations) however as we are reliant on raising funds to support our operations it is important that we tell our story.

The first point of contact for a vessel in distress seeking assistance is usually through our Comms Centre with 000 being another option. To the end of March our Comms Centre Crew were on duty covering 180 shifts per month (24/7) and most of those shifts have multiple watchkeeping members present. Thanks to all those who fill the roster – we never miss a shift.

Our Rescue Vessels have responded to every tasking by the Water Police and support a number of on-water community events. For that all to happen a lonely DCO is working behind the scenes organising crew and keeping others informed.

In the month of February our Comms Centre Crew managed 24 Marine Incidents (anything from an overdue vessel to a distressed vessel at sea). At the time of writing near the end of March, our Comms Centre has managed 81 incidents Year to Date - including some serious distress calls on the water. As a measure of importance there were 40 people on board the vessels involved in those March incidents alone.

Our Rescue Vessels were tasked 14 times in February and again nine times up to the third week of March. Year to Date our vessels have been out on rescues a total of 35 times.

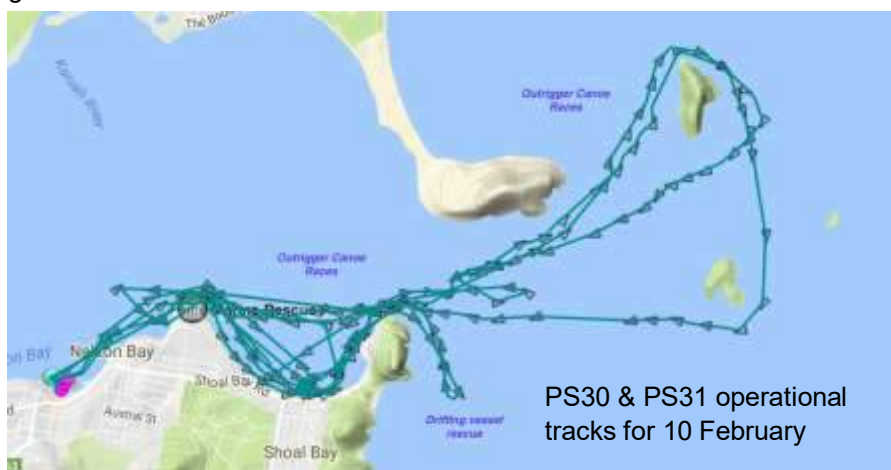
**10 February** - was a very busy day for the Operations of this Unit. Our Comms Centre logged on more than 75 vessels (that is a big day's work in itself). Not sure what makes it all happen together, however on the same day we also received six vessel distress calls – all of them off shore.

That took a lot of managing to keep the Comms Centre

working with the load and to manage our boats to attend to all the calls for help – some being 20+ nautical miles off shore. Congratulations to our Comms Centre staff – great job.

We want to thank our friends at Marine Rescue Lemon Tree Passage for their assistance in attending to a call off Hawkes Nest and for taking over two tows on inside waters allowing PS31 to go back out quickly for another job.

PS30 was tasked to its authorised limit when it rescued a vessel North of Broughton Island whilst PS31 was heading east of the Bay.



PS30 & PS31 operational tracks for 10 February

The last vessel that day was towed safely into Port Stephens just as the light was failing. A day to remember. We consumed 700l of fuel on that day.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the Boat Manager and a small group of members who work diligently on the maintenance of our vessels. It is because of their work that we confidently expect the boats to operate each time they are needed.

**25 March** - On Sunday morning, our Comms Centre was advised by a vessel beyond the port limits that there was flotsam on the water which appeared to originate from a boat. PS30 was tasked to investigate. Our crew soon found further items along the shoreline and then found a small capsized runabout. This then became an event managed by the Water Police with additional assets being deployed to search the coastline including a Police Helicopter and PS31. After many hours on the water the search was stopped as the owner of the vessel was located on land. The boat had drifted out through the heads during the night. Happily, we did not find what everyone was fearful of.

The most reassuring part of this event was the way in which the Water Police reacted in endeavouring to find anyone who may have been in the water. This story did not have a sad ending however nice to know that if indeed somebody was in trouble every effort is made to find them.

(Continued on page 15)

## MESS MEETING



Clockwise from top left awards presented by UC Lee Uebergang: Brian Bibbing, Barney Pinney, Sandra Schueber (presenting Gift Shop cheque), Ian Peacock, Tony Hogg-Guest Speaker being presented with a framed photo of PS31 *John Thompson*, WP24 *Intrepid* and PS40 *Danial Thain*. Neil Fraser and Iain Blackadder.



## OPERATIONS.... AND BOATS OFFICER

(Continued from page 13)



**Community Support** - Our vessels supported two community events in February and March. The first was the Shore Bird Count (16 February) carried out by National Parks and Wildlife Service. PS31 carried a number of Bird Specialists who counted the number of Shore Birds seen on the shoreline which we traversed. The issue is with migratory birds to Australia because their numbers are dropping. This is due to the destruction of breeding areas in Asia and Siberia. The information collected is used at United Nations talks trying to rectify this serious situation.

**24 March** - PS30 acted as safety/chase boat at the OC6

Outrigger Canoe State Championships, hosted by the Port Stephens Outrigger Canoe Club. An exciting day with PS30's crew assisting two outriggers and also conducting two "normal" rescues on the water outside the Regatta.

We believe our efforts contribute in a local way to the Marine Rescue NSW Vision of Saving lives at Sea.

### RFS

There will be other articles on the work we perform for RFS NSW however it is important to note that the Communications Centre has managed 274 RFS



incidents March Year to Date. This is a statistic we are proud of. (We are also proud of the RFS men and women who go out and fight those fires.)



## BOATS OFFICER

Both PS30 'Codi Kil' and PS31 'John Thompson' have been performing well with little need for major maintenance. Both vessels have had minor problems but nothing necessitating taking them off the water.

Work completed on **PS31**:

- Filling an airspace in the bulkhead between the saloon and engine bilges to maintain the watertight integrity of the two areas.
- Finding the problem with the starboard generator that is causing a ripple in the 240V power supply and shutting the 240V supply down.
- Changing the method of retaining the anchor when stowed.
- Purchasing a Man Overboard Recovery Net to bring on board incapacitated survivors.

Ongoing work includes re-attaching the port fender strip on the bow and working out the correct functioning of the bow-thruster master power switch.



Work completed on **PS30**:

- Replacing the man-overboard light.
- Ongoing work, replacing the cabin overhead hatches and sourcing some quality wind-screen wipers.

**The new dock facilities**



**development** has commenced with the pontoon completion - and the next step with the Varley group progressing.

**Ken Johnson**





# FINGAL BAY BOWLS, SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB

100 Rocky Point Road, Fingal Bay

Phone: 4984 1244

Fax: 4981 1468

[info@fingalbaysportsclub.com](mailto:info@fingalbaysportsclub.com)

<http://www.fingalbaysportsclub.com>

## RAFFLES

### Thursdays

Fishing Club Meat Tray Raffle  
at 6.30pm

### Fridays at 5pm

**Monster Meat & Chicken  
Raffles  
(100 trays)**

Ticket sales from 4.15pm

## 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 – \$7 Roast Dinner

Choice of roast pork or beef “no combos”

### Tuesday – \$18 Two for one schnitzel -

Beef or Chicken served with chips &  
salad or potato & vegetables. Choice of  
either gravy; Dianne, Pepper, Mushroom; or  
Garlic Cream Sauce.

### Wednesday – \$12 Feed choice of :

200gm rump steak, sides and sauce

Small chicken schnitzel, sides and sauce

Battered whiting fillet, sides tartare & 1

Small roast of the day – roast &  
steamed vegetables and gravy

Pasta of the day and side salads

### Thursday – Family night Kids Eat Free

from the Kid's Menu when an adult  
orders a main meal. Children under 12  
years - Limit 3 children to one 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.*



## RFS LIAISON HUNTER VALLEY & LOWER HUNTER

### RFS LIASON HUNTER VALLEY

The fire season never relented for Hunter Valley District. Fires continued to be ignited by lightning in the Wollemi NP and Putty State Forest, with the TJ fire taking up most of January and the larger 695 fire (burnt an area of 18,989 ha. ) occurring throughout February. In fact, MRPS only had the HV Fireline overnight for 5 days in that month when we took just nine calls.

On 22 February, I visited Bulga to return originals of the Incident Reports we have handled and pick up a new Pre-Determined Response (PDR) folder, combined for Lower Hunter and Hunter Valley. This is the information Watchkeepers refer to so that they page the relevant brigades for the type of incident that occurs at that location. Apart from some updated location information, AFA and CFR for Hunter Valley now reads "Contact Duty Officer" except for those areas serviced by Bulga and Howes Valley CFR teams.

The visit also gave Robyn and I a chance to see a live Fire Control operations centre in action and isn't it impressive! There were brigades from all over the State, Comms divided between Firecom and Aviation controllers, interactive mapping screens (with more bells and whistles than OpenCPN and Marine Traffic combined), constant briefing sessions, etc. The 695 fire was running in some very wild terrain but the 90mm of rain that finally arrived on 25 February helped to bring it under control. They are very proud that they did not lose



695 Fire February

one 'asset' (house, homestead, shed, etc) in the fire. RFS in full operational flight is something to behold.

If you want to see some great video from helicopter or the DC10 fire bomber Nancy Bird in



A retardant line laid down by the DC10 Nancy Bird.

action, go to @RFSHunterValley on Facebook.

**Colin Couper**



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

Month		Bush	Grass	Structure	CFR	MVA	Car	AFA	Other	Total
Jan-18	HVRFS	2	4	1	2	2	3	0	7	21
Feb-18	HVRFS	1	3	0	0	2	2	0	1	9
Jan-18	LHRFS	19	16	2	6	7	18	3	24	90
Feb-18	LHRFS	15	13	4	10	8	11	4	17	82
<b>Total for 2018</b>		37	36	7	18	19	34	7	49	202

### RFS LIAISON LOWER HUNTER

In January and February fire conditions were severe due to the ongoing drought. Fortunately, with the coming of the rains the threat has eased. This will be reflected in the statistics for March. It's good to see the bush green again. Sometimes too much rain can complicate the situation. An interesting incident happened last Friday

night when one of the brigades was called to a rather large pile burn. When they arrived on scene they called for another Cat 1 to attend because the access road to the fire was so boggy that only a 4x4 truck could access the site. Talking to the captain after returning to the

*(Continued on page 19)*

**Australian Family Owned & Operated**

# France

## FAMILY FUNERALS

*“...caring as only a family can...”*

### **NEWCASTLE**

209 Maitland Road (cnr Barton St), Mayfield

### **LAKE MACQUARIE**

108 The Boulevard (cnr Cary St), Toronto

### **PORT STEPHENS**

45 Stockton Street (cnr Church St), Nelson Bay

### **STOCKTON**

63 Mitchell Street (cnr King St), Stockton

Specialising in Fixed Price Pre-Paid Funeral Plans  
Free, No Obligation Funeral Information & Advisory Service  
Payment & Finance Plans Available (Conditions Apply)  
Available 24 Hours – 7 Days

**ALL AREAS 1800 44 66 53**

**[www.fff.com.au](http://www.fff.com.au)**



## RFS LIAISON LOWER HUNTER CONT.. IWD BREAKFAST & WELFARE OFFICER

(Continued from page 17)



station he noted he really didn't enjoy trudging through knee deep mud. Never a dull moment I suppose. The best thing about Cat 1 vehicles is they can go places non 4x4 vehicles would get bogged.

### New Procedures for Handling RFS Incident Calls

A new Notice to Watch Officers regarding the handling of a **RFS INCIDENT CALL** has been prepared by the Emergency Services Liaison Officer and has been issued or will be issued in the near future. It is worth scrutinising as some changes have been made to the procedures.

**Ross Debenham**



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST



On Friday 9 March Sandra Scheuber, Loris Webster,



Penelope Highland and Lee Uebergang joined Paterson MP Meryl Swanson and Port Stephens MP Kate Washington and a group of local women at the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens for an early morning breakfast. We were treated to a scrumptious breakfast and listened to some very interesting people.

Both MP's talked about the importance of women in the Port Stephens community. Breakfast attendees heard from Colleen Whittle, co-manager of Port Stephens Family and Neighbourhood Services, Kevin Stokes, chairman of the Gardens, and from the principal of Hunter River High Deb Dibley. The female captains from both the local high schools shared their stories and answered questions on their vision of their futures.

## WELFARE OFFICER

**Steve Chauncy** - Welcome back on deck to Steve. After a major heart operation recently Steve has returned to the base to perform his duties. "Not back to full speed yet" to quote Steve, however one would not know looking at him just how unwell he had been.

Great to have you back with us Steve, however just settle in to your duties gradually we do not want have you off again. Hello also to Steve's wife Julie whom has had a very stressful time with Steve's recent medical condition. Well done to you also Julie and nice to have you on duty at the base gift shop.

**Loris Webster** has also had a short break recently due to medical problems. However in a very short time, you guessed it, Loris was back on duty with her radio shifts and all of her membership duties.

Great to have you back on deck Loris, however look after yourself and slow down with all of the roles that you perform at the base.

**Sandra Scheuber** - I am sure that I can speak on

behalf of members and send our best wishes to Sandra for all the best with her eye operations that she is about to have.

Sandra as we all know is one power house of a worker at the gift shop, she never seems to slow down and always on duty at the base performing some role.

Now Sandra, it is time after your two eye operations to take time off for Sandra and Brian to have a well earned holiday.

All the best . We will be thinking of you and a good outcome with the operations.

**Shirley Clark** - our Shirley has been far from herself recently. A fall at home resulted in a very sore leg that then became infected. If that was not enough, she then came down with a very severe chest infection that has certainly slowed our ever popular member down.

However knowing Shirley she has soldiered on and was not going to miss out on a flight that had been arranged for her to central Australia to visit family. All the best

(Continued on page 20)

## WELFARE ....

*(Continued from page 19)*

Shirley. Get well and enjoy your holiday.

**Rena Gardiner** - welcome back on duty Rena. Rena has returned to her duties at the base gift shop after a short period away due to the very sad circumstances of the passing of her husband. I for one, along with many other members was so pleased to see Rena back on deck and joining with all of the ladies who I am sure have been supporting her in these very difficult times.

All the best Rena. We are all here for you at any time, so please just ask me or your great many friends in the gift shop.

**Marian Chapple** - another member who is dedicated to her duties at the base. Over the past month Marian has been reporting for duty while supported by two Canadian crutches, because of a broken bone in her ankle.

The accident I believe happened in Queensland recently, however Marian was not fully aware of the severity of her injuries at the time and drove herself back to her home at Port Stephens.

Well Marian that is determination and also commitment that you have. Well done, all thinking of you and hope that all is on the mend with a good outcome.

**Peter Baldwin** - The Unit's condolences have been conveyed to Peter and his partner Daryl, with the very sad news of Daryl's mother passing away very unexpectedly. Daryl, Peter and family these are very hard and difficult times. However remember that the UC and DUC along with me and members are all here for you at any time if we are able to assist you through these hard times.

**Harold Gibson**

NBBC presents

# Marine Rescue Barefoot Bowls

6.30pm 22nd June 2018

Grab a team of 4 and enter our Barefoot Bowls  
Social night of fun, laughter and bowls

**PLUS**  
**Lucky Team Prizes**

**Best Dressed Prize for  
The best sports outfit  
for any sport or hero**

**only \$10 per person**

**SAUSAGE SIZZLE**  
available on the night  
for a Gold Coin Donation

**OUR VISION**  
To provide, through motivated and satisfied volunteers, one of the most effective, innovative and dependable Marine Radio and Search and Rescue Bases in Australia.

**OUR MISSION**  
To provide an effective 24-hour Marine Radio and Search and Rescue response to the community in accordance with State and National rescue policy.  
Maintain the Nelson Head historic heritage site to a high standard for posterity and public access.

 **100% of proceeds will go towards  
Marine Rescue Port Stephens**

 **Nelson Bay  
Bowls  
Recreation Club**  
*Our Club is Your Club*



## EDUCATION AND TRAINING & FUNDRAISING

### UNIT TRAINING OFFICER

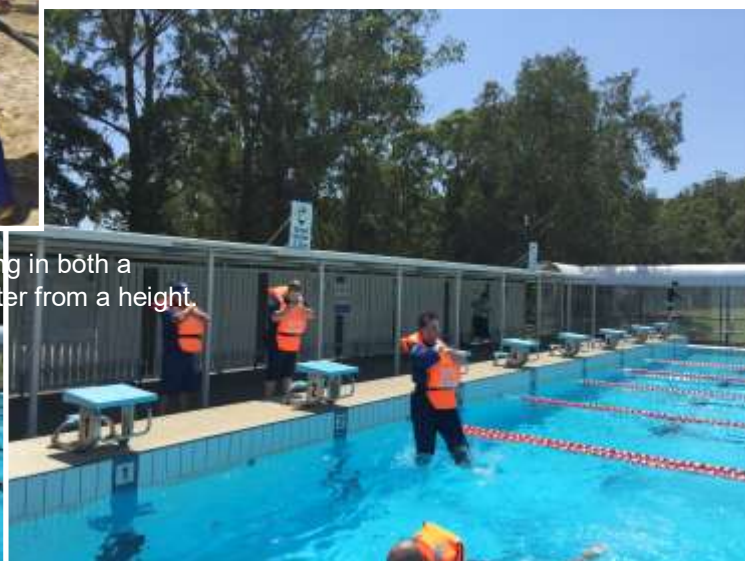
On Saturday 17 March MR Port Stephens conducted another Fire Fighting Course at RFS Fingal Bay and hosted members from across The Hunter Region.



One of our PS members, Sarah Charters seen demonstrating a technique known as "Boundary Cooling"



Members actively participating in both a "swim test" and entering water from a height.



Participants came from Tuggerah, Lemon Tree Passage, Norah Head, Newcastle, Port Jackson and Hawkesbury.

On Sunday 18 March a similar group from across the Hunter Region and beyond gathered at Tomaree Aquatic Centre and participated in our Sea Survival Training Course.

Both Fire Fighting and Sea Survival are essential training courses for those members wishing to ultimately join our active Boat Crew.

**Brian Bibbing**

### FUNDRAISING OFFICER

Marine Rescue Port Stephens have had and are busy during March and April with Promotion Booths at three major Port Stephens events. They are -

**The Trailer Boast Fishing Competition - 22-25 March**

**Women Who Sail - 6 April**

**Sail Port Stephens - 8-15 April**

**Raffle - Drawn 15 April**

To raise funds to run the base and rescue boats, we are running a raffle to supplement our collection boat income.

**1st Prize - Microsoft Surface Pro 2017 Lap Top**

**2nd Prize - Photo Voucher from Capture Photography**

**3rd Prize - Savage Rod, Shimano Reel and accessories from BCF**

**4th Prize - Framed Painting by local Artist Stafford Bennett**



**5th Prize - Bodum Fyrkat picnic charcoal Bar-B-Q by ExpressO Coffee Specialists**

**Total Value \$2500**

The raffle will kick off on Friday 2 March at the Base, in our Gift Shop and upstairs in the Comms Centre. Tickets will also be available at the booths at all the events.

Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00

Raffle drawn on the last day of Sail Port Stephens.

**Nelson Bay Bowling Club**

NBBC are holding a Barefoot Bowls event on 22 June to raise funds for Marine Rescue Port Stephens unit. So grab a group of friends or family and come along for a fun night. (See ad on previous page).

**Peter Young**

# CENTURY 21 NELSON BAY REAL ESTATE

*Family run  
& owned for  
10 Years*



ratemyagent 2017 AWARDS  
**TOP 5 AGENCY**  
NELSON BAY - CORLETTE

“

“Michael, and his team are outstanding, they are very professional in the way they go about presenting the property for sale. They kept us informed the whole time. Michael Kirby is the best Real Estate Agent in the area.

*Colin (vendor)*

“Michael was very prompt to respond to my requests from the buyers side and then he went beyond what was expected to secure a deal in a very professional manner”

*Suzanne (buyer)*

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS FOR A FREE MARKET APPRAISAL

**(02) 4984 4700**



**Michael Kirby**  
Principal/Licensee  
0423 792 829



**Tracy Lewis**  
Real Estate Agent  
0422 294 499



**Grace Bissett**  
Sales and Marketing  
Licensed Real Estate Agent  
4984 4700



## LIGHTHOUSE TRUST & BIRDS AROUND THE BASE

### TRUST CHAIRMAN

#### Annual visits by St Philip's students and staff.

77 Year 9 students and five staff members from St Philip's Christian College will be coming to visit the Inner Lighthouse Museums and the Bunker on Wednesday 11 April. The purpose of their tour is to visit WW1 and WW2 historically significant points of interest in the Nelson Bay area - in particular the defence installations and amphibious training that took place in Shoal Bay and the surrounding area. They will tour the Museum to see the photographs, maps and memorabilia to do with the Australian and American army base camps.

Also on Tuesday 24 April, 30 children aged 5 to 12 years with five staff members from St Philip's Primary School will visit the Marine Rescue Port Stephens Operations Room, the Museum and the Training Room. The Trust will provide guides to escort and briefly talk about the museum, Communications Centre role and boat safety.

The Trust together with the Port Stephens Historical Society members provided a WWII display for the ex WRANS-RAN reunion that was held from 1 to 4 March at the Shoal Bay Country Club.

The Trust continues to care for the State Heritage listed 'Inner Lighthouse Keepers Cottage' and we comply with



*Harold Gibson with the display at Shoal Bay Country Club*

the Crown Lands Act, Port Stephens Council Regulations and a Heritage Section 60 Certificate before any development is performed on the Reserve.

**Kevin Griffey**

### BIRDS AROUND THE BASE

Birds at the Base – Pied Currawong (*Strepera graculina*)



The Pied Currawong is a robust, crow like bird that is found throughout eastern Australia and on Lord Howe Island. It is absent from Tasmania. The name currawong is onomatopoeic and derived from the bird's call. The term is believed to be indigenous in origin. Currawongs are closely related to the butcherbirds and the Australian Magpie but are only distantly related to crows and ravens.

The Pied Currawong is 44–50 cm in length and the wingspan varies from 56 to 77 cm. Adult males weight around 320 g and females 280 g. The bird is mostly black with white patches in the wing, undertail coverts, the base of the tail, and the tip of the tail. It has bright yellow eyes. The bill is long and heavy, about one and a half times as long as

the head and is hooked at the end. Legs are dark grey-black. Both sexes are similar, although the female may sometimes be greyer on the underparts. Young Pied Currawongs are duller and browner than the adults.

The call is loud, distinctive and melodious and has been translated as 'kadow-kadang' or 'curra-wong'. They also have a loud, high-pitched whistle, transcribed as 'wheeo' which is used only in winter.

Their preferred habitat is forests and woodlands, but they have also become well adapted to urban areas in recent times where they are found in parks and gardens. There has been a significant increases in population in Sydney and Canberra since the 1940s and 1960s respectively. The Pied Currawong prefers mature forests for breeding. It is generally sedentary, although populations at higher altitudes relocate to lower areas during the cooler months. The birds can live for over 20 years in the wild.

The Pied Currawong is omnivorous. Its diet includes a wide variety of berries and seeds, invertebrates, bird eggs and juvenile birds. They consume more vertebrate material during the spring breeding season than they do during autumn and winter, when berries are more widely available. Larger prey up to the size of a young possum is also taken. It may be hung on a hook or in a tree fork or crevice and can be eaten straight away or, in the case of larger prey, over a period of time. As

*(Continued on page 25)*

# Inner Light Tea Rooms

*at the Lighthouse*



The most spectacular views under our fully covered terrace

- \* Morning and afternoon teas, lunches \* Espresso coffee
  - \* 19th Century cottage and memorabilia
  - \* Guided tour available
  - \* View Marine Rescue base in action \* Souvenir shop
- B.Y.O.

Open  
Public  
Holidays

**Open 10am til 4pm**

Extended car parking      Access from Little beach

**Phone 4984 2505**

## NELSON BAY OUTBOARD SERVICES

superior service. quality products. unrivalled experience.

- Service and repair of **ALL makes and models** of outboard, sterndrive and PWC engines
- Sales, service and repair of **trailers and components**;
- Installation of new and used engines, and **all marine accessories**;
- ...and more!

CONTACT: DENNIS SHARPE

PHONE: 4982 7433    MOBILE: 0427 928 061    FAX: 4982 7463

WEBSITE: [www.nbos.org](http://www.nbos.org)

email: [nelsonbayoutboards@ozemail.com.au](mailto:nelsonbayoutboards@ozemail.com.au)



## SALAMANDER BAY BARBER SHOP



*When quality counts....*

Traditional barbering and quality, expert service  
you'd expect when you have your hair cut.

### TRADING HOURS

8am—5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
9am-5pm Wednesday  
7.30am—2pm Saturday  
Closed Sunday

**Phone: (02) 4919 1640**

Shop 2, 267 Soldiers Point Road, Salamander Bay





## BIRDS AROUND THE BASE ....

(Continued from page 23)



foraging take place in trees some metres above the ground, they are able to share territory with the



ground-foraging Australian Magpie. On the ground, a Pied Currawong hops or struts.

During the spring breeding season, Pied Currawong pair up and establish territories that are defended vigorously by the male. The nest is a bowl of sticks, lined with grasses and other soft material. The material is gathered by both sexes, but the female builds the nest, which is placed in a high tree fork, up to 20m above the ground. A clutch of three eggs is laid and incubated by the

female for about 30 days. The chicks are born altricial and remain in the nest for an extended period. The male supplies food to the female while she incubates the eggs and for the first week after the chicks hatch. After that, both parents feed the young. The Channel-billed Cuckoo (*Scythrops novaehollandiae*) parasitizes Pied Currawong nests, laying eggs which are then raised by the unsuspecting foster parents.

The population of Pied Currawong is estimated to have doubled over the past 30-40 years due to the creation of favourable habitat by humans. There

are a number of negative factors associated with this increase. Historically, Pied Currawongs bred in the Great Dividing Range and only visited east coast cities and towns in flocks during the autumn



and winter. However, they now remain there all year round, and increasing numbers are breeding there. Cities provide an abundance of food resources, reducing the mortality of young Pied Currawongs during the winter to levels much lower than they would be in their 'natural' habitat.

Pied Currawongs are voracious nest predators of smaller birds in some areas. The nesting season of many small birds overlap that of Pied Currawong which are estimated to kill about 40 broods (up to two kilograms) of small birds to raise one brood of its own. The numbers of some small bird species are believed to have declined in areas where currawongs breed. Control of Pied Currawong numbers was undertaken on Cabbage Tree Island as part of the recovery programme of the endangered Gould's Petrel.

Pied Currawong thrive on the berries of some ornamental plants and then regurgitate a pellet containing the seeds after digesting the fruit. This has been responsible for the spread of exotic, invasive flora such as privet and asparagus fern.

**Neil Fraser**  
**Twitchee**

# 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: [lighthouse.weddings@yahoo.com.au](mailto:lighthouse.weddings@yahoo.com.au)



## LIGHTHOUSE WEDDINGS



Left: Sarah and Haydn Boon from Sydney married 10 February



Right: Belinda and Brian Foster from Newcastle married on 16 February



Right: Kylie and Michael Atkins from Queensland married on 2 March



Left: Kate and Max Allan from Nelson Bay married 24 February



Right: Katrina and Mark Woods from Nelson Bay married 17 March

### WEDDING CO-ORDINATOR

Once again we had the pleasure to host both large and small lovely weddings these last two months at the Inner Light,. Port Stephens sunshine making for some beautiful photo shots. My thanks to Harold, Lyn and Peter for all the help in setting up, plus a special thanks to Peter for the hard task of traffic control. It has been a busy time at The Inner Light, with many visitors and limited parking.

**Jenny Fitzsimons**



Family owned for 13 years



## Do you need toner or ink, or advice on a new printer?

Avoid the pain of Cart-Attack with The Cartridge Family.

Follow our 3 **EASY** ways to get toner and ink...

1. Phone **1300 1 TONER (1300 1 86637)** or email [sales@thecartridgefamily.com.au](mailto:sales@thecartridgefamily.com.au)
2. Tell us your printer model number
3. Expect your delivery the next day in most cases.

Free delivery for orders over \$75

## *We'll look after you®*

[www.thecartridgefamily.com.au](http://www.thecartridgefamily.com.au)

Proudly supporting "Marine Rescue Port Stephens"



Address: D'Albora Marina, E20/6 Teramby Rd, NELSON BAY

Phone: 4981 1813

[enquiries@rocklobsterrestaurant.com.au](mailto:enquiries@rocklobsterrestaurant.com.au)

Licensed Seafood Restaurant

Al Fresco and Indoor Seating

Excellent Water Views - Open 7 days

Lunch and Dinner: **Bookings Recommended**

Groups, Children & Special Occasions Catered for.

**LUNCH – 11:30am till 2:30pm    DINNER – 5:30pm till Late**

Your advertisement  
could appear here.

Email the Editor

[editor.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au](mailto:editor.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au)

or phone 4981-3585



*Keeping your music alive*

P (02) 4984 6666

F (02) 4984 6718

<http://www.psrfm.org.au>





## MARINE RESCUE PORT STEPHENS

*"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally"*



### **Our service to Port Stephens 2005-2017**

People saved/ assisted	4,821
Rescues and assists	2,164
Value of vessels saved	\$245M+
Rescue Crew volunteer hours	21,900+
Radio Base volunteer hours	270,000+
Radio calls made/received	276,268
Telephone calls made/received	252,045

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

**Volunteers saving lives on the water**

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE & PORT STEPHENS COUNCIL VISIT

### SOCIAL EVENTS

We're sorry we had to cancel the Bingo night on 12 April, due to unavailability of the hall and the key people, We are trying to set another convenient date and will advise

of the altered arrangements asap.

**Laurie Nolan & Frank van Druten**



## MRPS Social Committee 2018 schedule

Month	Date	Event	Comments
JUNE	Friday 22 June	Barefoot Bowls	- At Nelson Bay Bowling Club - \$10.00 per person - Make a team of four, bring some friends - Best Dressed Prize (see flyer on page 20)
JULY	Wednesday 25 July	Mid-year Dinner	- At a venue TBA
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 26 September	Trivia Night	- At Senior Citizens Hall, Norburn Ave Nelson Bay - No upfront cost - Make a table, bring some friends
OCTOBER	TBA	Adventure Outing	- At a location TBA
DECEMBER	Tuesday 18	Xmas Dinner	- At a venue TBA

### Year 2018 Public School Holidays

<b>Autumn Holidays</b>	16-Apr-18	27-Apr-18
<b>Winter Holidays</b>	9-Jul-18	20-Jul-18
<b>Spring Holidays</b>	1-Oct-18	12-Oct-18
<b>Summer Holidays</b>	24-Dec-18	28-Jan-19

## PORT STEPHENS COUNCIL VISIT

The Mayor and three senior members of Port Stephens Council visited MR Port Stephens on 26 February. This was a familiarisation visit and included a briefing on the Unit's operations and a guided tour of a rescue vessel, the Comms Centre and Command Centre, Gift Shop, Nelson Head Reserve and cottage.



Above from left: Emergency Services Liaison Colin Cahill, Mayor Ryan Palmer, General Manager Wayne Wallace, Emergency Services Coordinator Cameron Donaldson and Facilities and Services Group Manager Greg Kable



Above from left: Coxswain Barney Pinney, DUC Neil Hansford, General Manager Wayne Wallace, Facilities and Services Group Manager Greg Kable, Emergency Services Coordinator Cameron Donaldson, OPSO Tony O'Donnell, and Mayor Ryan Palmer



## 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

Peter BLISS  
Di BAILLIE  
Lee RYMAN  
Brian RICHARDSON  
Mary GUTRY  
Charles TRAA  
Seleana POWELL  
Geoff WILLIAMS  
John MORGAN  
Allan MILLS

12 Harold GIBSON  
8 Arthur HEILER  
8 Eryl THOMAS  
8 Dieter GREITER  
7 Jenny FITZSIMONS  
3 Trevor MOXHAM  
1 Frank VAN DRUTEN  
1 Iain BLACKADDER  
1 Matt DARBY  
1 Peter BALDWIN  
1 Jenny FROST

### MAY

33 Steve PICTON  
19 Rena GARDINER  
19 Marg MORRISON  
19 Brett CHERRY  
10 Juli KOKINOVSKA  
9 Heather HASKETT  
6 Gail LINDWALL  
6 Jenni FRYER  
5 Greg WALSH  
4 Krystyna WINSLOW  
3  
3

# Happy Birthday

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

### APRIL

Barbara HAYES  
Allan MILLS  
Eileen KELLY  
Noel CORCORAN  
Colin COUPER  
Trevor BRIGHTON  
Garry JENSEN  
Rex ATKINS  
Geoff ADAMS  
Harry McNAMARA  
Robert JOHNSON  
Robyn WINTER  
Paul SULLIVAN  
Fred HARVEY

David GOUGH  
Neil KEARTON  
Matt DOYLE

### MAY

Claude XUEREB  
Pam SMITH  
Ken ROSS-SAMPSON  
Trevor DOWSETT  
Louise MOORE  
Ken JOHNSON  
Harold GIBSON  
Pam WALTERS  
Doug HILLEBRAND  
Colleen SESSIONS

Charles TRAA  
Gail LINDWALL  
Kevin GRIFFEY  
Nigel WATERS  
Ian JAMES  
Penelope HIGHLAND  
Steve ALTA  
Lee UEBERGANG  
Frank VAN DRUTEN  
Robert STEWART  
Mike BROWN  
Wayne NEWTON  
Matt BREALEY

# PORT STEPHENS WEATHER

## Nelson Bay, NSW - February 2018

Date	Day	Temps		Rain mm
		Min	Max	
		°C	°C	
1	Th	18.8	23.7	1.2
2	Fr	18	23.7	0.6
3	Sa	18.5	24.4	0.3
4	Su	17.7	25.6	6.3
5	Mo	18.1	26	4.1
6	Tu	19.8	28.2	0
7	We	20.3	27.7	0
8	Th	19.6	27.5	0
9	Fr	20.7	29	0
10	Sa	21.5	30.1	0
11	Su	22.2	34.7	0
12	Mo	22.9	29.5	0.5
13	Tu	22.4	29.5	0
14	We	23		0
15	Th	23.5	28.7	0
16	Fr	22.1	29.1	0
17	Sa	22	27.8	0
18	Su	22.5	27.9	0
19	Mo	22.7	28.5	0
20	Tu	19.7	23	22.6
21	We	19.9	26.8	0.1
22	Th	19.8	26.2	0
23	Fr	20.5	26	0
24	Sa	21.9	29.4	0
25	Su	23	28.7	0
26	Mo	19.6	22	66.4
27	Tu	18.2	24.8	0
28	We	17	26.4	0

### Statistics for February 2018

Mean	20.57	27.22	
Lowest	17	22	0
Highest	23.5	34.7	66.4
Total			102.1

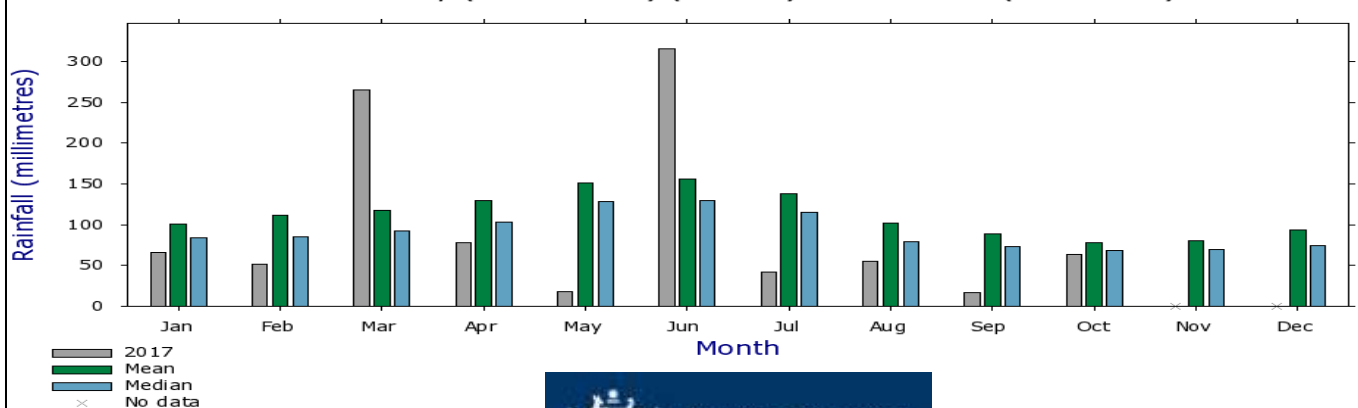
## Nelson Bay, NSW - March 2018

Date	Day	Temps		Rain mm
		Min	Max	
		°C	°C	
1	Th	18.8	25.3	0
2	Fr	20	26	1.2
3	Sa	20.5	27.3	0
4	Su	22.5	28.7	0
5	Mo	21.4	25.6	9.8
6	Tu	20.3	24.2	5.8
7	We	18.8	25.5	3.4
8	Th	19.5	25.4	2.5
9	Fr	19.5	25.4	0.4
10	Sa	20.5	26.8	0.4
11	Su	19.4	26.7	0
12	Mo	18	27	0
13	Tu	19.5	26.5	0
14	We	21.2	25.9	0
15	Th	20	28.3	0
16	Fr	22	26.8	0
17	Sa	21	26.5	0
18	Su	21.2		0
19	Mo	22.8	27.5	0
20	Tu	22.6	26	0
21	We	20.4	23	13.8
22	Th	18.9	23.5	101.9
23	Fr	18.5	22.1	9.8
24	Sa	18.9	25	21.6
25	Su	20	30.4	2
26	Mo		26.6	0.9
27	Tu	17.3	32.2	0.8
28	We	17.5	26.8	0
29	Th	20.5	27.6	0
30	Fr	20.2		0
31				

### Statistics for March 2018

Mean	20.06	26.4	
Lowest	17.3	22.1	0
Highest	22.8	32.2	101.9
Total			174.3

Nelson Bay (Nelson Head) (061054) 2017 Rainfall (millimetres)



Note: Data may not have completed quality control



## IN APPRECIATION....

### Contributors to this issue of *Port Chatter*:

Brian Bibbing, Colin Couper, Ross Debenham, Neil Fraser, Harold Gibson, Kevin Griffey, Neil Hansford, Ken Johnson, Laurie Nolan, Frank van Druten, Tony O'Donnell, Jenny Fitzsimons, John Reid, Lee Uebergang, Maureen Wheatley and Peter Young. Other photos by Ross Debenham, Jenny Fitzsimons, Neil Fraser, Neil Hansford, John Herret, 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, Trevor Dowsett, Marian Chappell, and Deb Nolan.

**Advertisers in *Port Chatter*:** The following advertisers with paid advertisements in the *Port Chatter* help to meet most of the costs of production.

Please show your appreciation by giving them your custom.

<b>Community Clubs</b>		Fingal Bay Bowls Sports and Recreation Club
<b>Hairdresser</b>	Men's Barber Shop	Vince's Salamander Bay Barber Shop
<b>Home/Office</b>	Locksmith	Bay Locksmith Services
	Decorating/Painting	Abode Decorating
	Printer Cartridges	The Cartridge Family
	Outdoor Furniture	Outdoor Obsessions
<b>Medical</b>	Chemists	Salamander Centre Pharmacy
		Shoal Bay Pharmacy
		Terry White Chemmart Pharmacy, Nelson Bay
	Doctors	Port Stephens Medical Centre, Keel St
<b>Funeral Services</b>		France Family Funerals
<b>Maritime</b>	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)
<b>Motor Vehicles</b>	Service Stations/Tyres	Fingal Bay Service Station and Tyres
<b>Windscreen Repairs</b>		Novus Autoglass Shop
<b>Real Estate</b>		Century 21 Paradise Waters, Nelson Bay
<b>Restaurants and Cafes</b>		Rock Lobster Seafood – D'Albora Marinas
		Inner Light Tea Rooms, Nelson Head
<b>Radio Station</b>		Port Stephens FM 100.9



## NEXT MEMBERS MEETINGS

**TUESDAY 17 APRIL 2018**

and

**TUESDAY 15 MAY 2018**

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 will be 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  
 Fax: 02 4984 1390  
[www.dalboramarinas.com.au](http://www.dalboramarinas.com.au)



*“have you visited d’Albora Marinas Nelson Bay recently?....*

*IT IS SO MUCH MORE THAN A PLACE TO MOOR”*

Aquablu Bistro and Bar	02 4984 9999	Mavericks on the Bay	02 4984 1203
Blue Bay Collections	02 4984 4763	Nelson Bay Marine	02 4984 9777
Boat Hire and Cruise Bookings	02 4984 3843	Noakes Boatyard	02 4984 4150
Broughtons at the Bay	02 4981 0865	Pacific Water Colours	02 4984 1922
Cafe and Convenience on the Bay	024981 0921	Popeyes Laundromat	02 4984 1333
Corner Secrets	02 4981 1160	Rock Lobster Restaurant	02 4981 1813
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