

PORT CHATTER

MARINE RESCUE NSW
PORT STEPHENS UNIT

AUGUST 2017



"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally"



Sadly, we'll soon be saying "Goodbye" to an old and trusted friend...



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		
Unit Commander Deputy Unit Commander Operations Operations Officer Duty Callout Officers Communications Centre Manager Ashes Scattering Coordinator Rescue Vessels Manager Chief Engineer R.F.S. Liaison Coxswains Finance Treasurer Community Relations Community Relations Officer Public Relations/Social Media Events Coordinator Editor Port Chatter Asst Editor Port Chatter Marine Radio Service Database Social Committee Gift Shop Manager Grants Officer Fund Raising Officer Unit Photographer Webmaster Education and Training Unit Training Officer Training Systems Officer Assistant Training Systems Officer Rescue Vessels Training Officer Course Presenters: Paul Buckley Mick Milton	Lee Uebergang Neil Hansford Tony O'Donnell Penelope Highland (Lead) Neil Fraser Angus MacKenzie Jenny Frost Michael Grover Harold Gibson Ken Johnson Bill Haskell Ross Debenham (vacant) Ken Johnson Robert Johnson Nigel Waters Peter Merlino Neil Hansford Matt Darby Dee Gilliland Penelope Highland Frank van Druten Graeme Abberton Laurie & Deb Nolan Frank & Deb van Druten Sandra Scheuber Tony Dawson Vacant Geoff Clark Peter Baldwin Brian Bibbing Graeme Abberton Julian Liddy-Meaney Richard Pizzuto Peter Dentrinos Neil Fraser Richard Pizzuto David Rogers	Welfare / Liaison Assistant Emergency Services Liaison Awards and Recognition Protocol Officer Corporate Services Administration Officer Base Centre Services W.H. & S Officer Base Security Membership & Mentoring Rosters Maintenance and Supply Data Base/Stats Technical Services Admin Support Historian Trust Management Sub-Committee Chairman Treasurer/Deputy Chairman Secretary Committee Port Stephens Historical Society Welfare / Liaison Wedding Events Co-ordinator Tours The <i>Port Chatter</i> 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.
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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



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FROM THE BRIDGE...

UNIT COMMANDER

Welcome to the August 2017 edition of Port Chatter.

As you will notice from the photo on the cover, our *grand old lady* Port Stephens 40 "Danial Thain" is FOR SALE. The next chapter of this vessel's distinguished career is still in limbo - we thought we had it sold recently but it fell through at the last minute due to a minor Survey issue. When the sale DOES go through, she will be given a very fitting departure from the shores of Port Stephens with a number of the local agencies promising to provide a fitting escort out the heads (Police, Maritime, RFS etc). Recognition must go to Bill Haskell, Eryl Thomas, Tony O'Donnell and several others for the outstanding work they have undertaken to keep DT running well and satisfying the demands of the sale process.

The most significant visit since my last report was by The Hon. Troy Grant MP, Minister for Emergency Services on 7 June. The Minister's visit was centred on the notification of two grants to MR Port Stephens: \$6,800 over 2 years for recruitment advertising, and \$6,000 for new first aid training equipment. Photos from the visit were published in Bay News of the Area. It was a very relaxed visit and covered the Gift Shop, Cottage, Comms Centre and breakfast in the Command Centre with nearly 20 Members (well done to the caterers Jenny Fitzsimons and Debbie Buckley). Other visits include:

- Detective Chief Inspector (Acting Superintendent) Wayne Humphrey, who is the Commander of Port Stephens Local Area Command
- RFS Inspectors Marty Siemsen & Ken Hepplewhite

Speaking of RFS, at the monthly meeting on 18 July I announced that from Tuesday 1st August MR Port Stephens will be taking on the afterhours Communications Centre role for the RFS Hunter Valley District. This is in addition to the same role we have performed for RFS Lower Hunter District since 2009. RFS Hunter Valley covers the Singleton and Muswellbrook local government areas and handles about 600 incident calls per annum (i.e. about one third the number of calls handled annually by Lower Hunter). We can expect this to average out at about one additional RFS incident per day for us. We are confident we can and will handle this without difficulty. We will follow exactly the same procedures as we presently do in responding to Lower Hunter incidents. A few minor changes have been made to phones and radios. The RFS approached us to take on this extra role so that's a great sign that our work is

valued and performed professionally. Well done to all Comms Centre staff.

Most Members might not be aware that all MRNSW Units are grouped into six regions with MR Port Stephens the most northern Unit in the Hunter Central Coast Region. The region consists of Lemon Tree Passage, Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Tuggerah Lakes, Norah Head and finally Central Coast and Terrigal which are in the process of merging. We have a lot in common with MR Lake Macquarie which is the next largest unit in our region and the only other Unit with a Comms Centre operating 24/7. On 19 June a delegation of 11 senior members of MR Lake Macquarie visited MR Port Stephens. We held wide ranging discussions on a range of overlapping operational and administrative challenges and to share common practices and experiences. The day went very quickly and both Units discovered we have far more in common than areas where we differ. A reciprocal visit is planned for October to Lake Macquarie's Pelican Boat Base.

Over the weekend 16 and 17th September Neil and I will be attending the 2017 MRNSW Leadership Conference at Rydges in Port Macquarie. This is a biennial event for Unit Commanders, Deputy Unit Commanders, Board Members and Headquarters staff. This year's event will present an opportunity to reflect on MRNSW's record of success and continuous improvement and to discuss new programs to help support volunteers and serve the NSW boating community. It is also an opportunity for the leaders of MRNSW to come together to meet their colleagues and share experiences and knowledge. I'll report on the visit in the next edition.

One quick comment on the AGM we held on 18 July. During the meeting I outlined our achievements for the 12 months from July 2016 to June 2017. It was a long list of accomplishments which highlighted the fantastic work done by the volunteers of this Unit. You certainly do live up to the motto "**volunteers doing our jobs professionally**" and I thank and congratulate you for that.

Finally, congratulations to Laurie Nolan who has qualified as a Coxswain. Well done Laurie.

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

Lee Uebergang
Unit Commander



DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER

We have almost completed the installation of a new internet services to the base after the NBN roll out. As expected by late June we had a high-speed fibre to the node (FTTN) service that will dramatically improve the

speed of our services like Seahawk. We are paying the price for being at the end of a line to nowhere up on the picturesque headland.

With the National roll-out of the NBN, analogue telephone

(Continued on page 7)

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OUR PATRONS PROUDLY ACCEPT A MARINE RESCUE PORT STEPHENS SHIRT.....



(Above) The Hon. Bob Baldwin



(Above Right) Meryl Swanson,
MP, Federal Member for Paterson



(Right) Stephen Bromhead LLM,
MP, State Member for
Myall Lakes



(Above) Dr David
Gillespie, MP, Federal
Member for Lyne

FROM THE BRIDGE..... AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

(Continued from page 5)

lines will disappear as early as Quarter 1 2018 around Port Stephens. This will mean our 8 dedicated and general lines will need to be switched to Voice Over Internet Protocols (VOIP) via our broadband connection. This will mean that new software will be introduced for sending and receiving faxes and other functions will go to wireless mobiles. The speed being contracted allows us to consider the provision of a very high magnification camera to show the entrance to the Bay which we would commercialise to bodies like TV stations and RMS and livestream on our website for boaters and the general public.

We were successfully awarded a grant by Port Stephens Council to install a back up to the NBN over "air fibre" to give us high speed fidelity for our communications if the traditional underground line was damaged in any way.

Dee Gilliland will provide final details on the 35th Anniversary Dinner Dance to be held on 4th November

2017. This will be a major event for old and new members alike. This event will be available to members at cost and will be great value. It will be all about celebration of 35 great years and will have ample time for dancing.

Since my election I have worked with many of the Executive to close out proposed projects and plans to either bring them to fruition or bin them. Membership has been a key priority and the membership and training teams have been under constant pressure as we have taken our membership to over 230 which is an all-time high for the Unit.

Our Unit takes on far more activities than most so we need a large motivated team to share the load. There is always room for interested people to join our team.

During September Lee and I will attend the MRNSW Leadership Conference at Port Macquarie.

Neil Hansford
Deputy Unit Commander



COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER

The feverish activity up to mid-June has slowed down for Winter. We have 3 dates in September, October and November for our Bunnings barbeques where we would hope to make a \$3,000 contribution to our funds. More details on the actual dates are available by going to www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au and going to the Members Only Area. Here you can go the date and time you want to help us and put it straight into the computer. Couldn't be simpler! Why not do it today. If not, you can still put your names on the board.

We filled a late vacancy at Bunnings in June and despite poor weather had a good result thanks to a small and dedicated team of old and new members under the guidance of Trevor Moxham.

NEW Unit Polo Shirts are selling well. By the time you read this, we will have already sold 50 Port Stephens non-iron Polo Shirts that can be worn other than on duty. Full range of sizes available from Margaret Morrison on 0419 198 188. These are being sold to members at their cost to the Unit of \$20.

Donation Boxes

We have found even more sites for our collection boxes both close to Nelson Bay and further afield. Steven Alta is now co-ordinating this worthwhile fund raising activity. If you know a site where the business primarily deals in cash, please leave a message for Steve at the base. Steve has been able to get boxes into areas of high volume like Gloria Jeans in Salamander and Nelson Bay and as far away as BCF Heatherbrae. Steve has proved

that **if you ask... you get**. The collections should come into their own in Summer. Our largest collection point is the Base Comms Centre where the good "sell" by Base staff is really being rewarded.

Grant Applications

We have been successful with Grants applications for much needed equipment. We received \$6,000 from the Emergency Volunteers Support Scheme of NSW Emergency Services for first aid training equipment which is already in use. In addition, we have a 2-year grant of \$6,400 for promotion of membership of the Unit.

We also received \$4,500 from Port Stephens Council to provide back up to our new NBN base communications. This is under the Council's Community Support Scheme.

Most significant to come is a very substantial grant application to construct barge mounted dock facilities to provide essential storage for our crew and vessel equipment. This application is with Clubs NSW Port Stephens and will soon be announced.

We have applied for an additional Grant from Club's NSW for additional electronics to complement those on PS31, Many Grant schemes are drawn to our attention but in many cases, we don't qualify as they are related to health and welfare outcomes.

Gift Shop

Another great performance by the ladies who presented another significant cheque at the June Mess meeting. The commitment shown by the ladies is a credit to all of them as they want to always better what they did over the busy

(Continued on page 9)



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COMMUNITY RELATIONS

(Continued from page 7)

Christmas period. The shop and its stock have never looked better which is reflected in the sales.

To climax a very great year the ladies have raised \$61,200 for the year and are our largest contributor to Unit income. Soon you will see a bright awning over the Shop to draw customers and make entry dry during rainy periods and also keep the sun out so the blinds remain open.

Public Relations

Our Facebook page is always up to the moment and relevant thanks to Matt Darby and Tony O'Donnell. We are careful of what we put on this social media to always project news but have to be sensitive to all parties in our rescue activities.

We continue to have interesting articles in *Port Stephens Examiner* and *Bay News of the Area* and we receive excellent support from *PSFM 100.9*.

New Web Site

The Unit web site has had even more innovations to make it interesting for members and visitors. Since the new site was rolled out we have had over 14,000 hits and not a day passes where Peter Baldwin isn't making changes or updating rosters, social events etc in the discrete Members Only Area. If you haven't visited the site go to: www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au

See all the new features like direct weather feed from the base, What's on, Willy Weather, Fishing Reports from Salamander Bait and Tackle, a live feed from Facebook every 10 minutes, recent obituaries for those that have crossed the bar, links to sites you need to use.

The webmaster, Peter Baldwin is adding additional members-only training content all the time. If you want the password for the Members-Only Area just send an email to Peter at

rosters.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au

I am sure you will see our focus on getting members and donations. All our advertisers and supporters are now exposed on the site. You should support them as they support your Unit.

Getting Out There

Lee Uebergang and I realised very early in our term that we had to get out in the community and tell the story of what we do, what it costs and where the money comes from. Just some of the venues we have spoken at are Fingal Sports, Probus, Prostate Support Group and Nelson Bay Rotary.

Members of our boat crew have also spoken at events like Women Who Sail Australia.

Lee or I are always happy to talk to community groups to spread our message.

Neil Hansford
Community Relations Officer

DONATION BY ANNA BAY TAVERN FISHING CLUB

The Anna Bay Tavern Fishing Club has generously donated \$2,000 to Marine Rescue Port Stephens as part of its annual community support program. The donation was made by Club President Darrin Saunders at the AGM at the Anna Bay Tavern on Sunday 25 th June 2017. Lee Uebergang, Unit Commander of Marine Rescue Port Stephens accepted the cheque from Darrin and thanked the Club for its generous support "Marine Rescue Port Stephens needs to raise \$160,000 per year if it's to meet its mission of "saving lives on the water".



Community support is vital and it's great to get donations from Clubs which are part of the boating community. The support of the Anna Bay Tavern Fishing Club is fantastic".

The Anna Bay Tavern Fishing Club also presented cheques for \$2,000 to the Anna Bay Primary School Parents and Citizens Association and the Black Dog Institute.

Lee Uebergang
Unit Commander



PORT STEPHENS MEDICAL CENTRE

2 Keel Street, Salamander Bay 2317

Ph: 4981 1733 Fax: 4981 1766

Email: portstephensmcepsmc.net.au

Our surgery features General Practitioners, a Registered Nurse, visiting Specialists and onsite pathology.

Dr Stan Kuchta MBBS (Sydney). Dr Kuchta practices full-time within our surgery and deals with all aspects of primary care in family medicine. His special interests include all types of Skin Cancers, Sports Medicine, Cardiology and Pain Management.

Dr Steve Illiadis BSc MBBS (FUSA). Dr Illiadis also practices full-time in our surgery. His special interests are surgical problems, Skin Cancer, Sports Medicine and Children's Health (Pediatrics).

Dr Michael O'Donoghue BSc (NSW), MBBS Dip Av Med, DAME. Dr O'Donoghue performs part-time sessions in our surgery. His special interests include Aviation Medicine and Occupational Medicine.

Dr Douglas Routley BMed (Hons), FRACGP. Dr Routley is a gastroenterologist and visits our surgery fortnightly. His specialties include diseases of the digestive system and the liver.

Australian Hearing Services provides hearing assessments and the fitting and repairing of hearing aids. They have sessions at our surgery weekly.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

(The following appeared as an article in the "Bay News of the Area" community newspaper.....)

YOU could be forgiven for thinking Marine Rescue Port Stephens (MRPS) is all about radios and rescues.

While these are part of their operations, have you ever given thought to the other volunteer opportunities that exist?

Currently, there are vacancies for grounds maintenance, wedding/events co-ordinators, corporate support (admin, data entry, clerical), IT, PR, social media and website management, photography and graphic design.

The list goes on.

While there are many dedicated volunteers already in place within the gift shop, there is an opportunity for someone to become part of the retail management team which will involve all aspects of running a successful business.

Sandra Scheuber, Gift Shop Manager, told News Of The Area, "Volunteering at MRPS fulfils my life, I have made many friends, it's a supportive environment and knowing my time and effort is appreciated and directly contributes to the viability of the service is what really keeps me coming back."

Being part of MRPS satisfies the criteria for the Work for the Dole program, it offers flexibility on hours, available 7



Hon Troy Grant, NSW Minister for Emergency Services, Sandra Scheuber, Gift Shop Manager, Lee Uebergang, Unit Commander,

days per week, with indoors and outdoors, or group and individual projects. Minimum age is 18.

It is an opportunity to gain employability skills, brush up on existing skills or branch into something new.

"I'm very pleased to be part of such a well recognised organisation that provides such a valuable emergency service to the community," Lee Uebergang, Unit Commander said.

Lee would like to thank the community for supporting MRPS and to thank the dedicated volunteers who give their time regularly.

Information on joining call 0437 584 383. To donate go to.... <http://www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au>.

VISIT BY NSW EMERGENCY SERVICES MINISTER, HON. TROY GRANT....



(above) Peter Fitzsimons, Minister Grant, Kevin Griffey (Chairperson of Sub-Committee for the Nelson Head Lighthouse Trust) - in the Inner Light Cottage



(above) Peter Fitzsimons (back) & Minister Grant - in the Inner Light Cottage



(left) Tony O'Donnell, Minister Grant, John Reid, Neil Hansford, Peter Baldwin, Jenny Fitzsimons, Loris Webster, Laurie Nolan, Peter Fitzsimons, Lee Uebergang, Debbie Buckley, Colin Cahill, Sandra Scheuber, Mike Grover, Brian Bibbing & Steve Alta - in Command Centre with first aid equipment purchased with EVSS grant money.

**MARINE RESCUE
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(The below article is an extract from Port Stephens Examiner, Thursday June 15 2017)

26 PORT STEPHENS EXAMINER Thursday June 15, 2017

portstephensexaminer.com.au

MARINE RESCUE PORT STEPHENS ADVERTISING FEATURE

MRPS issues urgent alert for volunteers

MARINE Rescue Port Stephens has been faithfully serving the boating community of the local area since 1982 and needs volunteers.

It currently boasts 230 members, 35 per cent of whom are female, across an age group from 19-92.

In the past year alone Port Stephens volunteers have responded to 200 incidents including almost 30 life-threatening emergencies.

That's on top of maintaining and operating all facets of the base, including the radio communications centre which operates 24/7 365 days of the year, two rescue boats, the lighthouse and cottage and the gift shop.

"There is no shortage of jobs available for anyone who is interested in joining MRPS," Deputy Unit Commander Mr Neil Hansford

said. "Our average age of volunteers is 65 years but we welcome people of all ages and background."

On June 7, 2017 NSW Minister for Emergency Services Troy Grant visited MRPS and presented a \$6000 suite of first aid training equipment as part of a \$12,800 recruitment and skills grant.

The remaining \$6800 will be invested in the recruitment of more volunteers for this extremely busy unit.

The grant was provided under the Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme (EVSS), which supports the recruitment, training and retention of emergency services volunteers.

Mr Hansford welcomed the grant saying it will assist with operations moving forward.

"As a not-for-profit or-

ganisation, grants like these enable us to attract, train and retain volunteers," Mr Hansford said.

"Unlike SES or the Rural Fire Service, Marine Rescue is not funded by state or local government and so any assistance is invaluable," Mr Hansford

"Government funds only cover 16 per cent of our total annual operating costs of \$180,000.

"For the rest we rely on local fundraising, donors, benefactors and proceeds from the gift shop at Nelson Head and contributions from the RFS for operating their after hours communication centre."

If you're interested in volunteering with MRPS, ring 4981 3585 or visit www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au.



FIRSTHAND VIEW: Environment Minister Troy Grant with Marine Rescue Port Stephens Unit Commander Lee Uebergang during the Minister's recent visit.

35-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

In the June edition of the Port Chatter we asked you to save the date to help celebrate the 35th anniversary of Marine Rescue Port Stephens. MRPS has come a long way in those 35 years and now is the time for us to make a fuss and have some fun whilst honouring those original 20 members who started the Port Stephens Division of the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol allowing it to become the organisation it is today. **"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally".**

Marine Rescue Port Stephens invites you and your friends and family to be part of the festivities to mark this important occasion on Saturday, 4 November 2017 at Soldiers Point Bowling Club from 1830 hours. For \$40 per person you will enjoy a delicious 3-course meal served with wine.

Be inspired by our guest speaker, medal-winning



Paralympian wheelchair basketball player, sailor and now state politician - Liesl Tesch. We will have auctions, raffles, prizes and dancing to a live band until late.

To make it easy we have created a link for you to book and pay in one simple process via our website

www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au

You will receive confirmation and tickets via email when the booking is completed. Bookings will be open from 5 August. Don't be late, get your booking in now.

Come and celebrate the 35th anniversary of our formation - we look forward to seeing you all there ...

Dee Gilliland
Events Coordinator

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AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS AT THE JUNE & JULY MESS MEETING



Above: UC Lee Uebergang presents training awards to Frank van Druten, Robert Stewart, Trevor Moxham, and thanks Sandra Schueber for the Gift Shop monthly contribution..



Left: Lee Uebergang thanks on-air presenters Bob McKay (left) and Paddy Twohill (right), from local community radio station 100.9 Port Stephens FM, for their informative presentation and their on-going support.

Below: Two of our favourite Ladies.... Monica Thompson (left) being presented the memorial to her late husband, Commodore John Thompson ESM, the **Founding Father** of our Unit, and... Shirley Clark (right), whose late husband Kevin Clark was the **first Commanding Officer** of our Unit, presenting the monthly contribution from the proceeds of the Gift Shop to UC Lee Uebergang.



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OPERATIONS

OPERATIONS OFFICER

This section of Port Chatter covers the operational aspects of Marine Rescue Port Stephens – meaning the Comms Centre and the Rescue Boats.

As at the end of June our Radio Base had handled **112 Marine Incidents**. These incidents could range from a Flare Sighting in the night sky to receiving a full-blown May Day call from a vessel in trouble.

Since the last issue of our magazine our Watchkeepers and Radio Operators have in fact received **3 May Day** distress calls. One was from a sinking fishing trawler and another was made concerning a vessel on fire within the Nelson Bay Marina. Another was after midnight from a vessel aground at Broughton Island.

Our boats in the first 6 months of 2017 have been tasked **36** times. These jobs ranged from assisting a vessel with a flat battery to pulling a 51' Cruiser off the beach at Broughton Island at 2AM.

Our vessels responded to a call from a member of the public who thought there were people in the water outside of Yacaaba Head. It turned out that there was nobody in the water but we and the Police cannot ignore such a situation.

We have towed a full spectrum of distressed vessels to safety ranging from small runabouts to large yachts miles off the coast.

It all generally starts with our radio base crews receiving calls for assistance from boats in distress. Our well

trained Watchkeepers and Radio Operators follow standard procedures to get assistance to those vessels. Usually they communicate with the Marine Area Command of the Water Police or depending on the situation directly with the Port Stephens Water Police.

The Water Police may task our Rescue Boats to assist. We have a great working relationship with the Police.

PS31 JOHN THOMPSON IS 1 YEAR OLD

Our newest asset, PS31 (John Thompson), was launched in May 2016. After a year in the water she was slipped in June for cleaning and anti-fouling. When lifted from the water we were pleasantly surprised to see that the hull was in wonderful condition. Noakes Marine in Nelson Bay cleaned the hull and sprayed it with some self-polishing anti-fouling paint. The surfaces under the water are once again immaculate.

PS31 has proven to be a very capable vessel and has carried out a number of difficult rescues in her 1st year. The sophisticated electronics on-board make the job that much "easier".

SALE OF DANIAL THAIN

As is widely known Danial Thain is on the market and there is a potential buyer. In July she was slipped at Lemon Tree Passage for a pre-sale out of the water inspection. A favourable tide was selected in July for this task. *Danial Thain* is 52' long and weighs 32 tonnes. The task of putting her up on a tight slip had to be well planned and orchestrated. Our crews got her there on time and the local slip operator, Michael Coalcliffe, took





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OPERATIONS (CONTINUED)

over and completed the job. He commented that *Danial Thain* was a wonderful boat to drive.... ***"She does exactly what you ask of her"*** he stated.

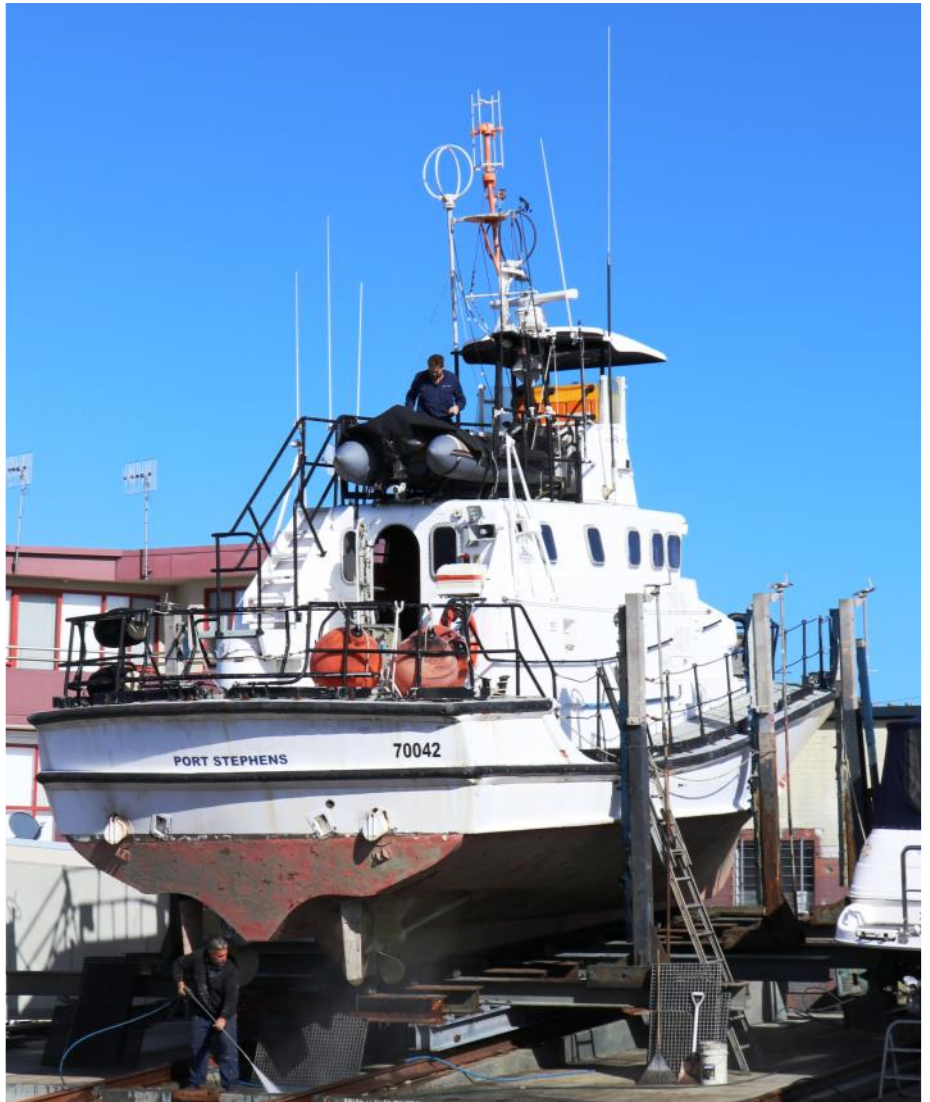
Congratulations to our Chief Engineer Bill Haskell and Eryl Thomas for meeting a few engineering challenges and having *Danial Thain* ready for the inspection (see picture below).

BOAT CREW TRAINING

We have a number of Boat Crew who are approaching their 1st Crew Assessment. It is important that we continually have crews training so that we can meet the demands of the future.

Laurie Nolan has recently completed his Coxswain Assessment and we wish him all the best in his new role. Our Coxswains are responsible for the operations of the vessels out to sea. The training regime is stringent.

It is also great to see so many people progressing through their training in the Comms Centre. We do important work and it is important that our people are well trained and can handle the demands of the day-to-



(left) Our Chief Engineer Bill Haskell and his ever-willing colleague, retired Coxswain Eryl Thomas were thrilled that the repairs to DT's turbo proved successful..... two very happy gents!!!

day tasks and especially be well-trained for when that distress call is received.

Congratulations to all our volunteers who keep our Comms Centre running 24 hours of the day, every day of the year. Also to our boat crews who meet every callout to a vessel in distress, no matter what the time of the day.

Finally thanks to our Callout Officers who are also on call 24 hours per day.

We celebrate the fine work done by all our Operational members and the others who support Marine Rescue Port Stephens.

***Tony O'Donnell
Operations Officer***

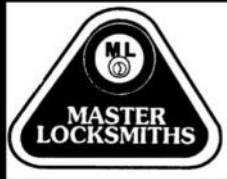
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CORPORATE SERVICES GROUP AND RFS LIAISON

ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

The level of inquiries from potential new members has continued very strongly due to an increased level of advertising. The Unit now has 220 members: 122 full ordinary members, 51 members in the Cottage/Gift Shop and 47 Provisional members. The demand for rostered spots in the Comms Centre by provisional members is very high and we would ask all provisional members to be patient with the process. We only have a specific number of rostered spaces available each month so we would request provisional members to limit their shifts to 2/ month until the high demand eases.

The new NBN/Telstra connection into the Base has been effected and is currently in use and undergoing further testing. This new line will give the Unit much improved bandwidth and will ensure the on-going viability of all of our communication systems. We are also working on the installation of an air fibre link from the Base to a building in Shoal Bay which will give us a back-up facility for internet connection. In the event of a fault or break in our standard NBN connection the system will seamlessly

switch over to the air fibre link, thereby ensuring that we have no interruption to our radio and other communication operations.

Lee Ryman, our IT coordinator, has also connected the 27MhZ radios to the voice recorder using circuit boards that he designed and built himself. This has saved the Unit a considerable sum of money and displays the ingenuity and dedication of our members. Well done Lee!!

We are continuing to work on the most cost effective manner of carrying out repairs to the main flag pole. This has become a difficult problem to fix but hopefully will be resolved in the near future.

The new MRPS web site has proved to be very successful and is attracting a great deal of attention from all users, both members and others. New features have been added making it arguably the best web site in MRNSW. A big thank you to Neil and Peter for all of their work.

John Reid
Administration Officer

RFS LIAISON

Stats for May, 2017: Yard fires 2, car fires 14, rubbish fires 2, rescue 1, Lawn mower/rubbish fire 1, grass fires 3, community first responder 4, truck fire 1, motor vehicle accidents 6, assist ambos 2, bush fire 1, pile burns 3, smoke report 1, grass fire 1, barbeque fire 1, bin fire 1, tree fire 1, cat in a tree 1, domestic fire alarm 1, automatic fire alarm 1 = Total Incidents 48. Total radio calls 781.

Stats for June, 2017: Tyre burn 1, community first responder 11, grass fire 4, yard fire 1, shed fire 1, car fires 10, motor vehicle accidents 8, bush fire 1, automatic fire alarms 5, bonfire 1, transformer fire 1, house fires 2, woman stuck in a toilet? 1, assist ambos 2, garage fires 2, structure fire 1, oil spill 1, rubbish fire 1 = Total incidents 54. Total radio calls 877.



Have you ever heard of Albano/Bowman's Creek, Goorangoola, Kayuga, Muscle Creek and Wybong Rural Fire Service Brigades? Well they are just some of the brigades we will be dealing with when we take over the after hours radio comms for the Hunter Valley Fire Zone under the new contract, **which commenced on 1st August**. There has to be some software exercises to be worked out. It is likely that we will only be an average of one extra callout per night. The radio communications are being carried out on the RFS 2 channel on the computer, and we are using the same paging system as previously.

The new Tilligerry RFS super station (pictured here) has been built and will be officially opened in early August.

Ross Debenham
RFS Coordinator - Lower Hunter





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WELFARE

WELFARE OFFICER

SEA SICK LIST Well I have not had much feedback at all with many members being on the unwell list. This is good news if such is the case and means that we all must have had our Flu Jabs and looking after our health.

KEVIN LANYON has been off duty for a month's break. However after some small medical problems that he had been having recently, is now all cleared up and Kevin is back at the cottage on duty full of life and passing on his local knowledge to the visiting public.

GRAEME ABBERTON Also nice to have our ever popular member Graeme back on duty with us after his recent operation. Graeme informs me that the base stairs are no problem now after his new Knee Replacement. Great to have you back Graeme but no more jogging too much along the beach for some time.

RICHARD PIZZUTO Another well known and popular member has also been missing in action for a few weeks. Richard has been putting up with the agony of a very painful knee condition for quite some time. Richard thought that enough was enough and decided to have the big operation performed resulting in a full knee replacement.

All good to report that all went well for him with the operation. Richard is home doing his exercises and being well supported by wife Nicky.

CROSSED THE BAR

Over the past couple of months we have had some very sad news with the passing of Members Loved Ones and also the passing of two more of our past serving members.

TO DEBBIE AND LAURIE NOLAN the unit's members' condolences was sent out to Debbie with the sad news of the passing of her mother from the Central Coast recently.

KEVIN AND CHRISTINE GRIFFEY our Prayers and condolences also was passed to Kevin and family with the sudden passing of his mother at her retirement village at Shoal Bay recently.

MICHAEL SIMPSON news of the passing of one of our former members just three weeks ago is a sad reminder of our many past members whom have crossed the bar recently. Michael has not been on duty with us for a few years now as he had to stand down from his operational duties when he was diagnosed with cancer. However, with his background as a Barrister before retiring to Nelson Bay, he was always on hand to assist our unit in times of any legal questions or advice that we may have had. Michael was a very noted Barrister and Judge in his working life in Sydney "A brilliant Legal Mind" is how one of his associates described him. Michael had a private funeral service in Sydney and is survived by his wife Sue who lives at Nelson Bay.

To Sue and family please accept our sincere condolences in the loss of Michael.

ALVIN KEMP again sad news with the passing of a very long serving member from Coastal Patrol /Marine Rescue days at Port Stephens. Because of failing health Al moved to Sydney to be closer with his family two years ago. Al had still been quite active with Cottage/Lighthouse duties right up to that stage.

Al joined the then Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol Port Stephens Division in 1994. He soon became involved in many areas of the operations section of the Division after completing all of his required courses.

Al's working career as a professional educator was very evident right from the start and he soon took on the role as the Education Officer. He also held positions as the Membership Officer and Navigation Lecturer. Al was a very active crew member on the divisions rescue vessels and was out at sea on rescue and assist duties in some very violent sea conditions.

Al will also be very well remembered for the time that he put into the operation and management of the Lighthouse/Cottage Museum Trust. He was deputy Chairman and then held the position of Chairman for many years.

Please read the article that has been written by Al's family and all will learn a lot more of this man's remarkable life.

*Harold Gibson
Welfare Officer*

Counselling Service

Marine Rescue has access to the RFS counselling service, the Critical Incident Support Services (CISS). If after a critical incident (rescue vessel, radio, elsewhere) you feel you need help contact the CISS on 1800 049 933. Use of the service is **fully confidential between the member and the Counsellor. It is not a sign of weakness to ask for support – it is a sign of strength.**

CROSSED THE BAR....

Alvin Osmond Kemp, known as Al, was born on 5th June 1922 at his parent's home in Forest Rd Bexley NSW Australia. He was the youngest son of Arthur and Ada Kemp. His two brothers were Leslie Charles Dunstan Kemp and Henry Claude George Kemp.

Al attended South Hurstville Public School, Hurstville Public School, Sutherland Intermediate High School and Sydney Technical High School.

His first job was with the Bank of New Zealand in George St Sydney. He caught the tram after work and attended Sydney University at night studying Economics. It is worth noting that both Al and Les were the first generation of Kems to attend University.

Al's tertiary education was suddenly interrupted two years later by Japan declaring War. As he was part of the University Regiment he joined the Army and had to postpone his studies.

His Army unit was stationed at Townsville and he spent some time working as psychologist testing new recruits. During some time in Brisbane Al met a young nurse, Catherine Annie King at an Army Canteen in Queen St Brisbane. They were married in 1943 at St Thomas's Church in Brisbane. Al and Kit travelled by troop train to Katoomba in the Blue Mountains for their honeymoon. They then returned to Brisbane.

After the war ended, Al and Kit moved to Sydney and stayed with his brother Les and wife Olga until they moved into a house built by Arthur Kemp in Noble St Allawah. Al left the army and returned to complete his University studies via correspondence and night lectures. He graduated with a Bachelor of Economics and a Post Graduate Diploma in Education. During this time he also worked in a pub and did private tutoring.

His first teaching job was at Kogarah Boy's High School, where he remembered teaching Business Principles to the well known tennis player, Ken Rosewall,

Kit and Al's first child, Richard, was born in Brisbane, Queensland in 1945 and their second child, Annette in Sydney in 1947. The family moved up to Tamworth when Al was appointed to Tamworth High School. They lived in a modest home in Dowell Ave Tamworth. Margaret was born in Tamworth in 1951 and Elizabeth born in August 1955.

In 1958 the family moved to Glen Innes, following Al's appointment to Glen Innes High School. Two years later the family moved down to Sydney in 1960 and settled in Northmead for several years. In the late 1960's Kit and Al built a new home in Winston Hills, Sydney.

Al Kemp had a long and successful career in Public Education. He taught Economics and Geography at Blacktown Boys High School and was appointed Subject Master. Following this appointment, Al established a new school in the challenging area of Mount Druitt. He also established an Evening College at Green Valley High School where he was appointed as Principal. His last school appointment, before retirement in 1981, was Pendle Hill High School.

Al was awarded the Director General of Education's Medal at his retirement for outstanding work in Public Education in NSW. He served on many curriculum committees and the Board of Studies and was an excellent example of public service. He had a very strong work ethic and was also actively involved in the Rotary Club and the Masonic Club.

Al and Kit witnessed and celebrated the weddings of their four children and soon welcomed the first of what would become 12 grandchildren: Richard and Sandra's children Nicole and Emily; Annette and Bruce's children Andrew, Christopher and Sally; Margaret and Peter's children Malcolm, Ross and David, and

Elizabeth and David's children, Eleanor, William (deceased), Jesse and Clancy. They also witnessed university graduations and successful completion of tertiary qualifications of their children and grandchildren.

In 1982, when Al retired, they were able to enjoy many caravanning trips up the coast to Queensland and other areas in Australia. Al and Kit were able to join in community activities and spend more time with their extended families.

With a large house to maintain and the four children grown up with their own families Al and Kit decided to sell up in Sydney

in 1993 and retire to a townhouse in Nelson Bay. This had been a favourite holiday destination over many years and it was time to downsize and relax. They were able to pursue leisure activities such as fishing and caravanning. Al joined the local Coastal Patrol and was actively engaged with rescues and radio duty for many years. He had been the President of the Lighthouse Committee and Museum as well as serving as an active committee member on the Hunter New England Area Health Service Board.

Al has lived to celebrate the arrival of sixteen great grandchildren.

Sadly, Kit passed away in November 2011, after a seven year period of declining health. For the last 3 years of Kit's life, Al was her carer, making sure that all medical appointments, tests, procedures, and daily activities of living were attended. This enabled both of them to continue living independently at Salamander Haven Retirement Village. His love, dedication and enormous sense of duty and responsibility have been a wonderful example to all family members.

The past few years have been more challenging for Al and his family due to his declining health and mobility. He was able to live independently, travel on several cruises and enjoy life with his friends until September 2015. After a diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease, and a decreasing quality of life, Al was moved into assisted Care Living in Sydney where he would be closer to family. A diagnosis of Bladder Cancer was made in 2016 which also required regular surgical treatment.

Al will be remembered as a very active community minded member. He was a strict but kind father who encouraged the pursuit and completion of educational qualifications. He was an intelligent man with a keen interest in current news and politics. He had a long, active and healthy life and will be remembered fondly by all who knew him.

Written by his daughter, Maggie Habgood, June 2017



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LIGHTHOUSE TRUST

LIGHTHOUSE TRUST COMMITTEE

Nelson Head Lighthouse Trust August 2017

The Trust Sub-Committee continues to meet each month and attend to the maintenance and repair around the Reserve.

The 2017 Community Partnership Grant Program is presently calling for applications. The Trust has submitted a Grant application for 32mm copper piping around the reserve with six fire hose reels strategically positions to give 360 degree protection of the Reserve's assets and the many visitors from bush fire should this occur again like in November 2016.

In addition we will engage an arborist to assist us with our annual tree protection and management program in consultation with Port Stephens Council and the Rural Fire Service.

Trust volunteers have undertaken major work removing, replacing and painting the white picket fence along the north east zone. Also the glass balustrade fence was extended along the eastern zone between the Tea Room and Gift Shop to replace the old wooden fence.

All the Trust volunteers involved with the grounds and maintenance continue to maintain the Reserve in a meticulous fashion which continuously thrills visitors and is highly praised.

But I would also like to especially acknowledge those who also roster on cottage museum and look after the reserve

during the day. Special thanks go to the ladies in the Gift Shop for opening the museum if required.

The Trust has installed a 'people counter' to calculate the number of persons visiting the Reserve as it is a question that we have to provide with our Grant applications. As an indication, the counter was operational at 2.30pm on 3rd July 2017 and one week later 3,950 persons had visited the Reserve by 3.00pm 11th July 2017 average 564 per day.

In July, the Trust arranged for new electrical wiring to be installed after the underground connection to the public car park night security lighting failed.

Jenny Fitzsimons continue to receive enquires and bookings for weddings which have also seen us partnering with Little Beach Boathouse as our recommend reception venue that can facilitate parking for the wedding party guests during the ceremony.

On Thursday 29 June 2017 the Nelson Bay Karingal Preschool children visited the Ground. This is an annual event and the children thoroughly enjoy their time at the Reserve.

In July, Paul Farnhill and Dennis Corr were invited by the Australian National Maritime Museum to attend a presentation about 'Ship Wrecks' which the museum intends to take on a regional display in 2018.

Kevin Griffey
Trust Chairman

DONATION BOATS

I was ask recently by Neil Hansford if I would like to take over the donation boats from Laurie Nolan. Neil gave me a night to think about it, and I took up the challenge, We now have 8 new shops.

- Gloria Jeans, Salamander Bay
- Gloria Jeans, Nelson Bay
- Boatshed, Soldiers Point
- Anna Bay Surf Shop
- Rosey's Takeaway, Salamander Bay
- Freddie's Camping and Fishing, Newcastle
- Bits'n'Boats, Soldiers Point
- Fisherman's Co-op, Nelson Bay

A couple of these are seasonal at this stage and not doing well through winter, but we will see how they go for the moment. The last one went into the Co-Op Nelson Bay, which we hope will do really well. It is very prominently displayed, as you can see from the picture on the right.....

Steve Alta
Donation Boats Coordinator



Lighthouse Weddings



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Email: lighthouse.weddings@yahoo.com.au

LIGHTHOUSE WEDDINGS



(Above) Niki & Troy Stead Wedding
20th May 2017



(Above) Juanita & David from Gunnedah
22nd July 2017



Our members Harold Gibson & Jenny Fitzsimons after another successful wedding ceremony 22nd July 2017

Below is a quote from a lovely email to our Wedding Co-ordinators Jenny and Peter Fitzsimons.....

Hi Jenny and Peter

Just a quick note to say a HUGE thank you for setting up the Lighthouse Reserve so beautifully and for organising everything on the day.

Everyone said it was the best outdoor ceremony they have ever been to and the view just took their breath away!!

David and I are so happy and can't thank you both enough.

*Kind Regards
Juanita Humparsum*

Jenny Fitzsimons
Wedding Co-Ordinator

GIFT SHOP AND SOCIAL CALENDAR 2017



I would like to start by thanking the ladies from the Raymond Terrace Probus Club. Every year the ladies donate wonderful hand knitted crocheting and sewed items to our shop. This not only helps us raise money for Marine Rescue, it also means we are appreciated in the community for the work we do, thank you ladies from the Probus Club.

In June our guest speaker was Laurie Nolan. Laurie gave us details of the dramatic rescue involving the Danial Thain, we are grateful everyone came home safely.

The Gift Shop is performing well even though it is our quiet time of year. A big thank you to all the ladies in the Gift Shop and for all the support we receive from management and the volunteers.

Sandra Scheuber



Di Baillie presented a gift of appreciation to Laurie Nolan after his talk in June....



It seems that the Command Centre had a visit from the gift shop fairies recently.....

MRPS Social Calendar - 2017 schedule

Month	Date	Event	Comments
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 13	TRIVIA Night	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At Senior Citizens Hall, Norburn Ave Nelson Bay - No upfront cost, but side-games require "gold coins" - Make a table, bring some friends
NOVEMBER or DECEMBER	Dates TBA	ADVENTURE Outing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Details TBA... but planned to be a fitting sequel to our Broughton Island Eco Walk of last year - Anyone with a "special request" or "good idea" is encouraged to discuss with Laurie Nolan.
DECEMBER	Tuesday 12	XMAS Dinner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At a venue TBA

SOCIAL EVENTS

SOCIAL EVENTS

"What a night.... What a fabulous night!"

This was the oft-heard comment as members and guests were leaving Sienna's Restaurant on Wednesday 19th July after yet another very successful social event. 53 MRPS members and partners had just finished a very tasty range of Pizzas and Pastas, and enjoyed the very convivial company of their colleagues.



The theme for the evening was **"Pizza, Pasta, Pearls and Party Hats (Tux's encouraged....)"**, and many of the members searched their jewellery boxes and wardrobes for appropriate attire. The range of adornments was very creative, with *Mine Host* Laurie Nolan claiming to have actually **dressed down** for the occasion.

Prizes for *Best Dressed* were awarded to Mick Duggan and Marian Chappell who went all-out to impress.

Laurie Nolan & Frank van Druten
Social Committee Co-Ordinators



Year 2017 Public School Holidays

Spring Holidays	23-Sep-17	8-Oct-17
Summer Holidays	16-Dec-17	29-Jan-18



BIRDS AROUND THE BASE

BIRDS AT THE BASE

Birds at the Base – Butcherbirds

Two species of butcherbirds are present in the Port Stephens area, the Grey Butcherbird and the Pied Butcherbird. The name butcherbird is derived from their habit of impaling large uneaten prey on a tree branch or thorn. Both birds are closely related to the Australian

and other soft fibres, located within 10 m of the ground. The eggs are incubated by the female and the young birds are fed by both parents. Young will remain in the breeding territory for about a year, and help the parents raise the young of the following season. The Grey Butcherbird is not threatened.



Grey
Butcherbird

A cousin of the grey Butcherbird is the **Pied Butcherbird (*Cracticus nigrogularis*)**. It is 33-36 cm in length and looks somewhat like a small magpie. It has a full black hood and bib, dark brown eye and long, hooked, grey and black bill. A broad white collar is present around its neck, the underparts are white and the legs are black. The upper parts are mostly black, with large patches of white on the wings and rump. Both sexes have identical plumage, but the male is slightly larger than the female. Young Pied Butcherbirds are generally duller than the adults with areas of black replaced with brown, and white areas washed with buff.

The Pied Butcherbird is found throughout the Australian mainland, with the exception of the southern and south-eastern coastline, more arid inland areas and Tasmania. It prefers to inhabit drier forests and woodlands and is often seen in parks, having adapted to urban living. They are known to attack unsuspecting people and dogs

Magpie and Pied Currawong. A Grey Butcherbird is often seen perching on prominent tree branches around the base while looking for food scraps from café patrons.

The **Grey Butcherbird (*Cracticus torquatus*)** is 26-30 cm long and has a black crown and face and a grey back, with a thin white collar. The wings are grey, with large areas of white and the underparts are white. The bill is grey and black with a small hook at the upper tip. The eye is dark brown and the legs and feet are dark grey. Both sexes are similar. Young birds resemble adults, but have black areas replaced with olive-brown and a buff wash on the white areas. It has a lovely, lilting song,

Grey Butcherbirds prey on small animals, including birds, lizards and insects, as well as some fruits and seeds. They are found in a range of wooded habitats, across much of Australia and have adapted well to suburban living. When nesting, the Grey Butcherbird becomes very aggressive, swooping at the face of intruders, accompanied by a loud, maniacal cackle. The nest is bowl-shaped, made of sticks and twigs, lined with grasses



Pied
Butcherbird

that approach their nests too closely. Pied Butcherbirds are very aggressive feeders and prey on small reptiles, mammals, frogs and birds, as well as large insects. The breeding season of the Pied Butcherbird varies throughout its large range. The female constructs the nest and incubates the eggs alone, and is fed by the male and

(Continued on page 32)

BIRDS AROUND THE BASE (CONTINUED)

other members of the group. The nest is a bowl of sticks and twigs, lined with grasses and other finer material. It is usually built in an upright tree fork up to 5 m above the ground. More than one female may lay eggs in the same nest. The Pied Butcherbird is not threatened.

The Pied Butcherbird's call is a beautiful, melodious fluting, sometimes given as a duet or in turn by several individuals from a prominent perch. It is a good mimic and has been recorded reproducing the sounds of a mobile phone, a car alarm, a barking dogs and the songs of other birds such as Crested Pigeon, Rainbow Lorikeet and Noisy Miner. See the following You Tube recordings:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVrLsGg6caw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZlAb-ObjIH4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMotkPv1eMw>

Several Australian and international composers and choreographers have been inspired by the Pied Butcherbird song to incorporate it into their music and dance. Study of the Pied Butcherbird's song reveals that it has some of the form and structural characteristics of human music and an aesthetic appreciation of sound may be present in its song.

Neil Fraser
Twitcheer

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.

AUGUST		Pete HARTLEY	1	Richard PIZZUTO	8
Ron LIGHTON	16	SEPTEMBER		Barry TIMMINS	7
John COOK	14	Lloyd CROPPER	26	Erica SMITH	6
Elizabeth FRANCIS	14	Noel CORCORAN	15	Tony O'DONNELL	6
Angela TILLING	10	Trevor DOWSETT	15	John P SMITH	6
Mike GROVER	9	Mike PIERPOINT	15	Tony DAWSON	6
Robert STEWART	5	Ken JOHNSON	13	Carol BASTICK	5
Casandra BUTTERWORTH	1	David ROGERS	13		
Maree BUGGY	1	Steve ALTA	12		

Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following members of the PORT STEPHENS UNIT with birthdays in August and September

AUGUST	Andrew TELLEY	Adi SAMI
Peter MALONEY	Jenni FRYER	Angus STUART
Caroline LOGAN	Brett CHERRY	Brian BIBBING
John P SMITH	Richard PIZZUTO	Lyndall DAY
Loris WEBSTER	Todd ELLIOTT	Ian PEACOCK
Gary BELL	SEPTEMBER	Peter MILLER
Rob CORNELIUS	John REID	John KOKINOVSKA
Christine RYNNE	Peter BLISS	Steve MARTINETTO
Tim BOYLE	Dieter Greiter	

PORT STEPHENS WEATHER

Nelson Bay, NSW - June 2017

Date	Day	Temps		Rain mm
		Min	Max	
		°C	°C	
1	Th	9.1	15.8	23.5
2	Fr	10.8		1
3	Sa			13.2
4	Su	12	15.2	92.5
5	Mo	12	19.1	11.4
6	Tu	9.9	16.1	0.3
7	We	10.5	15.9	11
8	Th	11.5	18.6	4.5
9	Fr	13.8	17	42
10	Sa	13.7	19	34.2
11	Su	14.9	18.2	26.9
12	Mo	13.5	18.2	0.4
13	Tu	13.8	19.1	8.8
14	We	16.5	19.5	8.5
15	Th	12.6	18.6	0.8
16	Fr	13.5	18	0
17	Sa	14.3	18.4	0.2
18	Su	14	18.6	8.6
19	Mo	14.5	20	15.8
20	Tu	14.7	19.1	0.3
21	We	12	18.3	5
22	Th	12	18	3.4
23	Fr	12	17.8	0.2
24	Sa	12.4	18.2	0
25	Su	11.5	19	0
26	Mo	11.8	17.5	0
27	Tu	10.1	17.1	0
28	We	12.2	16.5	0
29	Th	12.6	14.4	2.6
30	Fr	9.5	15.5	0

Statistics for June 2017

Mean	12.5	17.7	
Lowest	9.1	14.4	0
Highest	16.5	20	92.5
Total			315.1

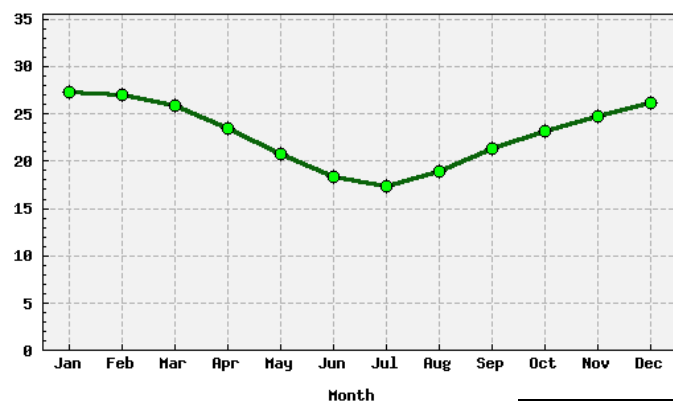
Nelson Bay, NSW - July 2017

Date	Day	Temps		Rain mm
		Min	Max	
		°C	°C	
1	Sa	9	15	0.5
2	Su	8.8	16.5	0
3	Mo		18.6	0
4	Tu	10.5	23.3	0
5	We	12.1	22.3	0
6	Th	9.9	18	0
7	Fr	9.4	18	0
8	Sa	10.2	17.3	0
9	Su	9.8	17.8	0
10	Mo	10	17.8	0
11	Tu	8.6	16.3	0
12	We	9.7	14.6	30.5
13	Th	10.3	17.2	5.1
14	Fr	10.7	19.8	0
15	Sa	11.9	17.4	0
16	Su	10.7	17.5	0
17	Mo	12	18.6	0
18	Tu	11.7	22	0
19	We	11	16	0
20	Th	11.6	18	0
21	Fr	9	15.9	0
22	Sa	8.6	17.8	0
23	Su	8	20.5	0
24	Mo			0
25	Tu	10.7	18.5	0
26	We	11.5	22.5	0
27	Th	11	19.2	0
28	Fr	10.8	20.3	0
29	Sa	10.2	20	0
30	Su	11.4	20.2	0
31	Mo	13.8	19.6	0

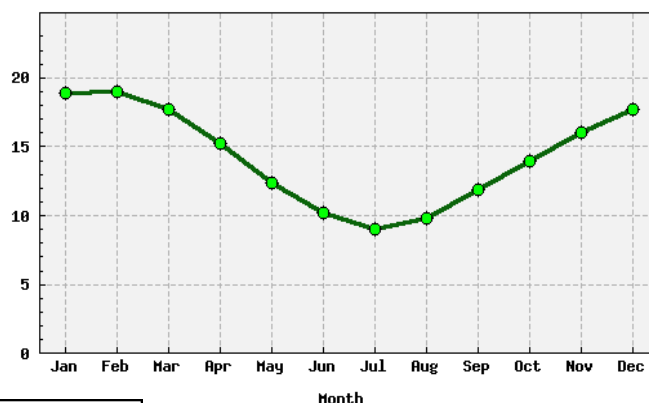
Statistics for July 2017

Mean	10.4	18.6	
Lowest	8	14.6	0
Highest	13.8	23.3	30.5
Total			36.1

Nelson Bay - Mean Maximum Daily Temp (°C)



Nelson Bay - Mean Minimum Daily Temp (°C)



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

IN APPRECIATION....

Contributors to this issue of *Port Chatter*:

Ross Debenham, Neil Fraser, Harold Gibson, Dee Gilliland, Kevin Griffey, Neil Hansford, Laurie Nolan, Frank van Druten, Tony O'Donnell, Jenny Fitzsimons, John Reid, Lee Ryman, Sandra Scheuber, Lee Uebergang and Maureen Wheatley. Other photos by Stephen Alta, Ross Debenham, Jenny Fitzsimons, Neil Fraser, Neil Hansford, 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.

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	Printer Cartridges	The Cartridge Family
	Outdoor Furniture	Outdoor Obsessions
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		Shoal Bay Pharmacy
		Chemmart Pharmacy, Nelson Bay
	Doctors	Port Stephens Medical Centre, Keel St
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)
Motor Vehicles	Service Stations/Tyres	Fingal Bay Service Station and Tyres
Windscreen Repairs		Novus Autoglass Shop
Real Estate		Century 21 Paradise Waters, Nelson Bay
Restaurants and Cafes		Rock Lobster Seafood – D'Albora Marinas
		Inner Light Tea Rooms, Nelson Head
Radio Station		Port Stephens FM 100.9



NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

**TUESDAY - 15 August 2017
and**

TUESDAY - 19 September 2017

*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

**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.

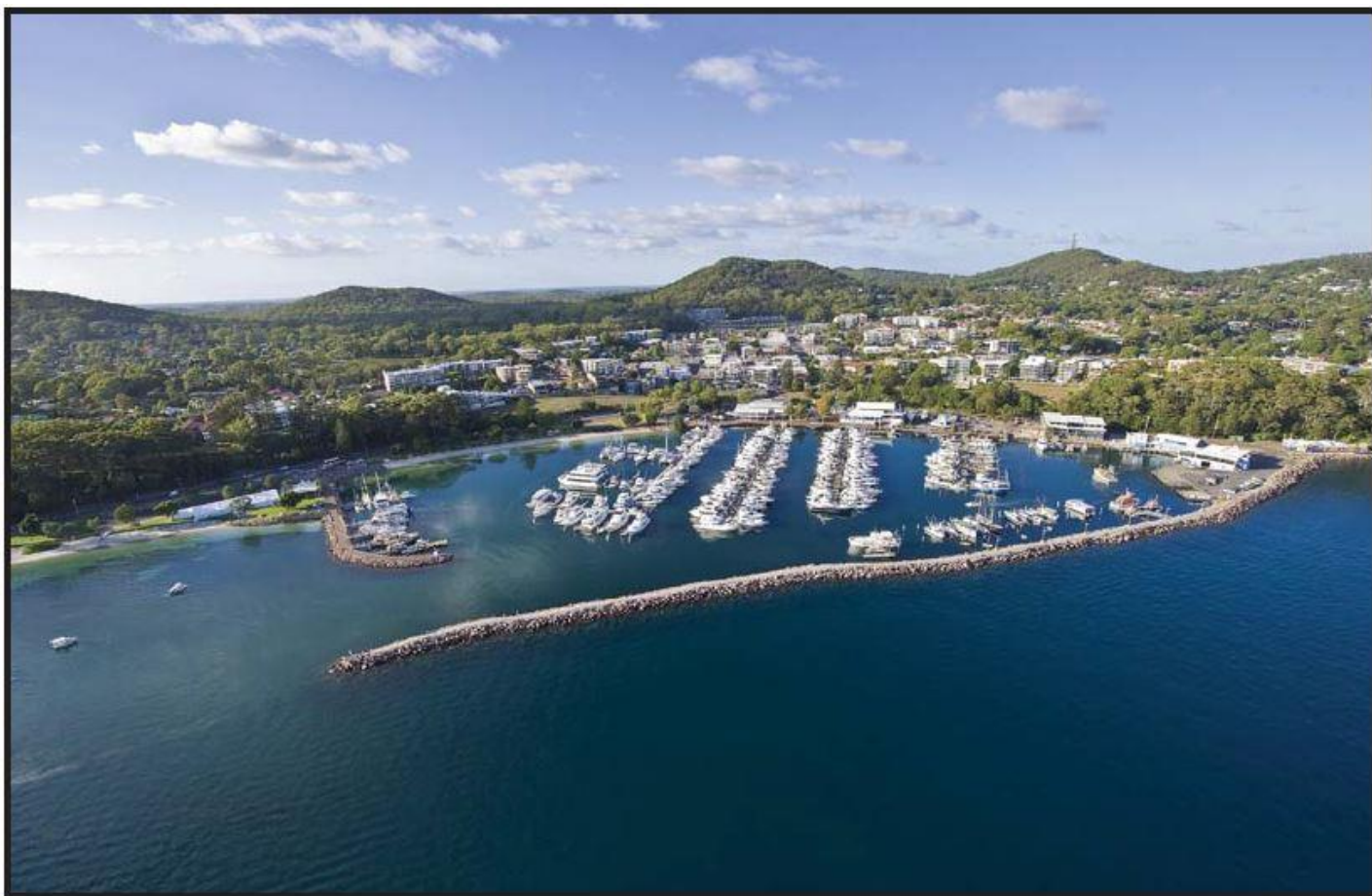


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Hogs Breath Cafe	02 4984 2842	Rock Lobster Restaurant	02 4981 1813
R Marine Port Stephens	02 4984 2355	Sandbar Seafood	02 4984 3777
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