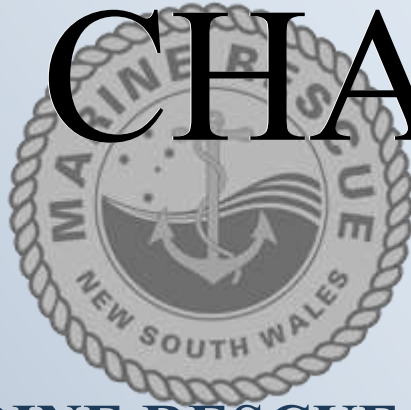


# PORT CHATTER



AUGUST 2018

## MARINE RESCUE NSW PORT STEPHENS UNIT

*"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally"*





## 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](mailto:base.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au)

Phone: (02) 4981 3585

Fax: (02) 4984 1944

## VOLUNTEERS SAVING LIVES ON THE WATER

### UNIT APPOINTMENTS

<b>Patrons:</b> 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		<b>Emergency Services Liaison</b> <b>Awards and Recognition</b> <b>Protocol Officer</b> <b>Corporate Services</b> <b>Administration Officer</b> Provedore W.H. & S Officer Base Security Membership  Rosters Building & Services Coordinator  Supply Officer Data Base/Stats Technical Services  Admin Support Historian	<b>Colin Cahill</b> <b>Iain Blackadder</b> <b>Harold Gibson</b>  <b>Colin Couper</b> Jenny Fitzsimons Angus MacKenzie John P Smith Loris Webster Heather Haskett Peter Baldwin Trevor Brighton Steve Picton Margaret Morrison Maureen Wheatley Lee Ryman Brian Richardson Peter Baldwin Robert Johnson Dieter Greiter Erica Smith Paul Farnill
<b>Unit Commander</b> <b>Deputy Unit Commander</b> <b>Operations</b> <b>Operations Officer</b> Assistant Operations Officer BOM Contact Duty Callout Officers Angus MacKenzie Peter Baldwin Communications Centre Manager Assistant Comms Centre Manager Ashes Scattering Coordinator Rescue Vessels Manager Assistant Manager Chief Engineer R.F.S. Liaison Lower Hunter Hunter Valley Coxswains Sue Freeman Robert Johnson Laurie Nolan	<b>Colin Foote</b> <b>Peter Merlino</b>  <b>Tony O'Donnell</b> Barney Pinney Trevor Moxham Neil Fraser Frank Van Druten Michael Grover Laurie Nolan Harold Gibson Ken Johnson Barney Pinney Bill Haskell Ross Debenham Colin Couper Ken Johnson Barney Pinney Laurie Nolan	<b>Trust Management Sub-Committee</b> Chairman Treasurer/Deputy Chairman Secretary Committee Port Stephens Historical Society Welfare / Liaison Wedding Events Co-ordinator  Tours	Kevin Griffey Peter Merlino Ross Debenham Peter Fitzsimons Dennis Corr Harold Gibson Jenny Fitzsimons Lynn Gibson Vacant
<b>Finance</b> <b>Treasurer</b> <b>Community Relations</b> <b>Community Relations Officer</b> Public Relations/Social Media Events Coordinator Editor Port Chatter Asst Editor Port Chatter Radio Club Manager Social Committee Gift Shop Manager Grants Officer Fund Raising Officer Unit Photographer Webmaster	<b>Peter Merlino</b>  <b>Iain Blackadder</b> Vacant Dee Gilliland Penelope Highland Frank van Druten Elizabeth Francis Vacant Sandra Scheuber Vacant Peter Young Geoff Clark Peter Baldwin	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Contributions</b> 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 <a href="mailto:editor.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au">editor.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au</a>. Contributions are subject to review by the Executive Committee prior to publishing.</p> <p><b>Advertising</b> enquiries are welcomed. Contact the editor at <a href="mailto:editor.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au">editor.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au</a> for more information.</p> <p><b>Sponsors</b> can make <b>tax-deductible</b> donations to Marine Rescue NSW Port Stephens. All sponsorships will be acknowledged in <i>Port Chatter</i> if requested.</p> <p><b>Cover Photographs</b> - Tony O'Donnell</p>	
<b>Education and Training</b> <b>Unit Training Officer</b> Training Systems Officer Training Systems Officer Rescue Vessels Training Officer Course Presenters: Peter Dentrinos Neil Fraser David Rogers Colin Couper Provisional Member Mentoring	<b>Brian Bibbing</b> Angela O'Dea Jan Sami Brian Bibbing Paul Buckley Mick Milton  Angela Tilling	<b>Welfare / Liaison</b> Assistant	
<b>Welfare / Liaison</b> Assistant		<b>Harold Gibson</b> Jenny Fitzsimons	

## 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 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.





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## UNIT COMMANDER'S REPORT

### UNIT COMMANDER

One month into the new role and it quickly becomes apparent what an amazing group of volunteers we have keeping the Unit running. The Organisational Chart shows over 40 different functional roles.

With the handover from the previous Executive completed I want to thank them for their achievements over the past two years and of course to welcome our new Executive. The Executive team is as follows.

**Unit Commander, Colin Foote**

**Deputy Unit Commander, Peter Merlino.**

**Admin Officer, Col Couper.**

**Treasurer, Peter Merlino.**

**Operations Officer, Tony O'Donnell.**

**Training, Brian Bibbing.**

**Community Relations, Iain Blackadder.**

All Executive members welcome contact from you with any suggestions or concerns that you may have.

Apart from the obvious need to keep our boats on the water and our radios functioning, our prime focus for the next two years is to ensure that we have a steady progression of ratings on the Rescue Vessels and in the Radio Room. We have attracted a large number of new volunteers over recent months and our Training Team is providing high quality courses to assist the trainees reach their first rating. It is now up to all of us to help them through the practical aspects of their training program.

### Crew Dock Facility



Congratulations and big thank you to all those involved in the supply and installation of our new Dock Facility. Details of the Facility are detailed elsewhere but suffice for me to say that this would not have occurred without the financial support of an initial Grant from Wests Diggers, the generous cost offset from Varley Engineering and the donations arranged by one of our Patrons, the Honourable Bob Baldwin.

This facility will enable our Boat Crew to store their Kits and Foul Weather gear at the Dock and provide them with a dry and safe place to prepare for Rescues 24/7 in the challenging weather conditions that Port Stephens can throw at us.

### Community Support

I was fortunate to have my first official role, along with Col Couper, at the meeting of the Anna Bay Tavern Fishing Club where we were presented with a donation of \$2,000. Our thanks for their ongoing support.



We have also received a donation from Rotary, Nelson Bay and again, thank you.

We need to raise \$150,000 each year to remain operational. We are fortunate that we have this Community support, along with our long term Benefactors and of course the wonderful contribution from our Gift Shop.

In this my first contribution to Port Chatter as Unit Commander, I am sure that there are many more things that we can and should include. A reminder to talk with me or any member of the Executive about the things that you want to know about in the next issue.

We have a special guest speaker for our August Unit Meeting. Graham Nickisson from Westpac Rescue Helicopter will be joining us to talk about some of the many Rescues that they have been involved with. Please come along and share his experiences.

**Colin Foote**

***"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally"***





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## DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER

### DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER

After the mess meeting on Tuesday 19 June 2018 Colin Foote (UC) and I have officially taken over our respective roles for Marine Rescue NSW - Port Stephens Unit for the next two year term. We are looking forward to this and to concentrating our efforts on our members.

I will still retain dual role as Deputy Unit Commander and Treasurer. I have Pam Walters currently in training as assistant treasurer along with Denise Olsen as treasurer for the Gift Shop.

To recognise the importance of our Gift Shop contribution to the unit, it now reports directly to the DUC and I welcome working with Sandra, Denise and our entire dedicated gift shop members for the work they do in "Saving Lives on the Water".

Iain Blackadder has taken on the Community Relationship Officer role. After returning from holidays, he and Peter Young have been busy with the dock facility ceremony - liaising with our sponsors - plus organising upcoming fundraising events.

Bunnings BBQ gives us a high visibility local community profile and is a very important fundraising event. There are still some spots for volunteers on Sunday 19 August (pm), 16 September (am), 21 Oct (pm) and 18 November.



Mick Duggan receiving his Leading Crew rating from Tony O'Donnell

Seven members from Port Stephens attended the Professional Development Day (Radio) held in Toronto on 5 July (Peter Merlino, Jenny Fitzsimons, Loris Webster, Elizabeth Francis, Peter Young, Peter Baldwin and Laurie Nolan). The one day program covered improvements in MRNSW communications, training on Seahawk latest enhancements plus some handy hints. This was followed by hands-on training with simulated scenarios. We also had the opportunity to meet with our Regional and HQ staff and other members from the Hunter / Central Coast units. A worthwhile day and highly recommend for others from this unit to attend next time it is held in this region



Matt Darby receiving his Crew epaulettes. With Brian Bibbing, Robert Johnson, and Sue Freeman.

The unit is also back into full operational status with the storm damage repairs completed on PS31.

We are now seeing our training efforts on the boats coming to fruition. Congratulations to Mick Duggan with his long overdue rating of Leading Crew. Matt Darby and others in recent months have achieved crew ratings. With our emphasis also on the progression of Marine Radio Operators and Watch Officers we hope by year end to see a number of our Comms Centre members achieve their respective target ratings.

**Peter Merlino**







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Beef or Chicken served with chips &  
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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  
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## CORPORATE SERVICES

### ADMINISTRATION OFFICER



The Admin Officer Colin Couper receiving the keys from his predecessor John Reid.

To try to fill the big shoes left by John Reid in this Executive position is quite a challenge.

Thanks, John, for your contribution to the Unit over the past two years. Thanks also for the great legacy you have left with an organisational structure that recognises what those unsung heroes/heroines contribute to the smooth running of the Unit. I was ignorant as a Watch Keeper, doing my shifts in the Radio Room, of the underlying efforts of the Corporate Services group. What a wakeup!!

Be it Membership, WH&S, Security, Providedore, Supply,

Rosters, Database/Statistics, Office Supplies, Building Facilities/Maintenance, Admin Support etc. every member of this group contributes to the efficient running of the Unit. Thanks to you all for what you do to ensure our large Unit operates so seamlessly.

Under the Constitution, every Member needs to renew their membership of MRNSW on 30 June of each year. If you have not done so, please secure a Form from the e-mail already sent to you or from in the Radio Room. You can return hard copies to the Admin pigeon hole in the Radio Room, you can scan and then email to [admin.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au](mailto:admin.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au) or mail to PO Box 20, Nelson Bay NSW 2315.

Those who do not renew risk being removed from membership in Marine Rescue NSW.

There has been a request from the Commissioner to allow all correspondence and on-line voting for Board Positions, to be sent via e-mail to the address indicated in your Otter record. If you

have not already allowed this by providing an e-mail address and/or indicating that you will allow contact by clicking "Yes" in the Contacts section of your Otter record, please do so. Otherwise there will be an extra effort required from Admin to ensure we keep you up to date with important MRNSW information.

Looking forward to being part of the team that supports our wonderful Unit.

**Colin Couper**



The Outgoing and incoming unit Exec. Neil Hansford, Peter Merlino, Colin Foote and Le Uebergang

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## GIFT SHOP AND OPERATIONS



The shop's busy time starts from September to after Easter next year. Our volunteers will be busy pricing and stocking the shop shelves as well as filling in with extra shifts.

**Sandra Scheuber**

June was a quiet month for the Gift Shop due to the cold and wet weather. The July school holidays were on the quiet side as well. I find most people go to the snow, or up to Queensland to the warmer weather. I know which one I would choose!

Unit Commander Colin Foote and Deputy Unit Commander Peter Merlino attended the Gift Shop July monthly meeting - which was very interesting and informative.

I am starting to order our stock for the lead up to Christmas.



July Monthly Meeting.

### OPERATIONS OFFICER

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

Marine Rescue exists to save lives at sea. Except for the essential RFS functions we perform, everything we do is focused on saving lives at sea – either through our Comms Centre or on the rescue boats. All our support services have a similar focus.

We have various measures to judge our effectiveness and our readiness to react when called upon. The following table (1st half year 2018 results) highlights our activity – Marine Incidents and RFS Communications.

With our volunteers managing nearly 700 incidents June YTD and our boats being tasked in excess of 50 times, we can surely say we are delivering on our Mission of *Saving Lives at Sea*.

Statistical Type	Activity June YTD
Marine Incidents Managed	128
RFS Incidents Managed (Comms)	563
Total Incidents Managed	684
Our Boats were Tasked	53 Times
Radio Calls Made	7,933
Telephone Calls Made	8,386

### Boats

We reported in the last issue of Port Chatter that PS31, John Thompson, had been badly damage by flying heavy boxes in a severe storm.

Almost four months to the day after the damage, PS31 returned to Port Stephens from Forster where she had been repaired by Steber International.



(Continued on page 13)

# CENTURY 21 NELSON BAY REAL ESTATE

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*Holly & John (buyer)*

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**Gemma Chircop**  
Receptionist  
4984 4700



## OPERATIONS...

(Continued from page 11)



The Crew (Skipper Laurie Nolan and Crew Sue Freeman and Matt Darby) brought PS31 proudly back to the home port where she is now back in service. Skipper Laurie Nolan said it was good to be back on board and commented how well she performed on the 3+ hour journey home.

The vessel has been fully restored to its operational state before the damage. The radar was completely destroyed



and that model has been superseded and now replaced with a Doppler Radar. It is an ill wind... they say.

Meanwhile our smaller vessel PS30 (Codi K-II) carried the load and responded each time the Unit was tasked.

Boat Crew training had to be very inventive during the period we were down to one active boat. Thanks to all our crew for your support and patience.

Congratulations to Matt Darby for attaining the rank of Marine Rescue Crew and to Mick Duggan, Leading Crew (really just formalising what he does week to week).

Barney Pinney has assumed the role of Assistant Boat Manager (along with his many other tasks which include being one of our Skippers and lecturing in navigation, Watchkeeper etc.).

Barney and Ken Johnson had a busy few months getting PS31 back into service along with some much needed maintenance on PS30

Thanks to Steber international, BME and other contractors for your fantastic support in getting PS31 quickly back into service. Great work.

### Comms Centre

Between 1 January and 30 June there are 180 days. That means our volunteers have covered 540 shifts. Our Comms Centre is staffed 24/7/365. Well done to all involved – especially those who do more than their fair share.



On 1 June this year a container ship, *YM Efficiency*, lost 83 containers overboard off the coast of Newcastle. Although the position of 50 containers has been noted there are therefore approximately 30 still missing (at the time of writing). This has involved MR Port Stephens in a 24-hour planned program of broadcasting warnings to "All Ships" about the dangers of the lost containers.

As at 24 July we have broadcast more than 1000 Securite broadcasts on VHF and a further 1000+ on 27 MHz channels. A massive undertaking.

Laurie Nolan has settled into a new position – Assistant Communications Centre Manager supporting Mike Grover. Laurie also has other roles none less than being a rostered Duty Skipper on the boats, Watchkeeper etc.

### Duty Callout Officers (DCO)

Welcome to our newest DCO, Frank Van Druten. Frank will soon learn to hold the phone to his ear while chipping onto the 15th green.

Being a DCO is not only an interesting role, it is also so important in our Mission of Saving Lives at Sea. They are the people slightly removed from the hustle and bustle – they need to be organised and composed. Quickly and efficiently they are the link to the Port Stephens Water Police, they call out boat crew (at all hours) if we are tasked and ensure all procedures are being followed.

### Dock Facility

For years a dream, a long time in the planning and now a reality. On 10 July our new dock facility was delivered to our dock at Nelson Bay.

This addition to our dock for the first time allows crews to

(Continued on page 15)

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## OPERATIONS .....

(Continued from page 13)

be briefed and debriefed out of the weather or not crammed into a boat.



For the first time our Boat Manager will be able to have all the required regulatory, maintenance and purchase records in one accessible place.

For the first time our boat crew will be able to leave their boat bag close to the boats rather than carry them everywhere they go. Additionally, we can now store foul weather gear, readily available when



needed.

The quality of this facility is so much better than our initial dream. The reason for that is the involvement of one of our Patrons, Bob Baldwin who introduced us to the Varley Group. This company engineers/constructs quality products for the Defence Department, Police, Ambulance, RFS, NSW&R etc. In a few words, the quality of our construction was so much better than we had ever dreamed.

Marine Rescue Port Stephens is very much aware that the final product is so good due to the generosity and professionalism of Varley.

Having such a fine facility so much better than our dream was also possible due to the generous donations of so many benefactors – again originally approached by Bob Baldwin.

All those who made this possible will be officially thanked at a small ceremony, down on the dock, during August.

Finally, we have to thank Ian Peacock and Tim Boyle for managing the project for Marine Rescue - taking the dream to a reality.

Our Mission - *Is saving lives at sea.* Looking back over the first six months of this year

Our radio crew are there for every shift, every day. They manage every incident (Marine and RFS) according to the SOPs.



Our DCOs answer every call no matter what time of the day or night – and they follow procedures.

Our Boat Crews have responded to every tasking by the Water Police and have done what was asked of them.

Every time we spend a dollar in the Operations group we are very aware of the work our Gift Shop ladies do, and



(Continued on page 17)





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



## OPERATIONS .....

(Continued from page 15)



the efforts of our PR and fund-raising members – that makes it all possible.

I think it is fair to say we are delivering on our Mission.

Finally, thanks to Lee Uebergang, Neil Hansford and John Reid (all retiring Exec. Members) for the fine work you did in leading the Unit over the past two years. Your legacy will live on.

Tony O'Donnell







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## JUNE AND JULY UNIT MEETING



**From top left: June Unit Meeting** Harold Gibson presenting to outgoing UC Lee Uebergang, outgoing DUC Neil Hansford. **Second Row from left:** Harold Gibson presenting to outgoing Admin Officer John Reid, Lee Uebergang presenting epaulettes to Colin Foote. **Third Row from left:** Neil Hansford presenting DUC epaulettes to Peter Merlino. **July Unit Meeting** Awards presented by Regional Operations Manager Steve Raymond to Nigel Eves, Matt Darby and Pete Baldwin accepting Mick Duggan's Leading Crew rating. (Cont. on page 27).

# Lighthouse Weddings



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

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

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

Wedding Co-Ordinator

Mobile: 0491 135 102

E mail: [weddings.portstephens@gmail.com](mailto:weddings.portstephens@gmail.com).



## WELFARE WELFARE/PROTOCOL OFFICER

### MEMBERS WELFARE REPORT

Hello to all members and their family, I am sure with this dreaded cold weather we have many on the 'Sea Sick List' who I am not aware of. May I send my get well wishes to you all for a speedy recovery. However I do have a few members to mention who have not been too well this winter.

**Geoff Williams** has had a hard time of late with eye problems. He now reports that after a few rounds of surgery, he is well on the mend and pleased that his surgery has been of great benefit.

**John Howson** has not been sailing too well with his health these past couple of months. John had a heart attack resulting in major surgery. When I spoke with John recently he said that he is on the mend but a long way to go until he is back to normal.

From all of your friends at Marine Rescue John, we are all thinking of you and also hope for a good recovery and look forward to your return to duty with us at the base.

**Pat Reid** - How could I possibly have forgotten to mention Pat in my 'Sea Sick List' last month? My sincere apologies. I am pleased to be able to report that after another recent operation on his hands he is making good progress after the terrible fall a few months back. John mentions that he is very pleased also, as he will now skip past the house duties. I am sure that John would never do this to you Pat.

**Erica Smith** - although always smiling and ever ready to assist other members, has also been far from her self these past few weeks. I believe that Erica has been troubled by a vertigo type complaint that is slowing her down with her gardening and other activities that she loves doing. All the best Erica. Our thoughts are with you for a speedy recovery.

**Eryl Thomas**, better known as '**Captain Seaweed**' has been far from his friendly self over the past few weeks. Eryl informed me that all is under control with his complaint. He misses the boat crew and coffee days. However he has added out-riggers to his canoe and hopes to try this out soon. I would suggest you wait till after the westerly winds *Seaweed*, or you may meet up with your boating mates asking for a tow home. Just joking Eryl. We all know that you are an excellent skipper. We are all thinking of you our dear friend.

**Penelope Highland** our very popular member and Port Chatter editor. I believe that Penelope has been away holidaying, but the past couple of weeks she has been suffering from what she describes as "A killer of a cold". Penelope now feels that she is on the mend. I am sure that I can speak on behalf of all members and send our regards for a 'get well soon' and thank you for the hours of work that you put into this Bi-Monthly magazine.

**Peter Fitzsimons** another hard working member who helps to keep the base grounds looking immaculate, has also been on the sick list. Peter had a heart condition treated a few months ago and was back on deck within weeks and doing very well. After a week away in Brisbane with Jenny, Peter also had an attack of that dreaded vertigo. Good to report that he has recovered and he is back on deck working at top speed again.



**Rod Reeson** one of our long time serving members, also a past unit commander and rescue vessel skipper had a very worrying accident recently. Rod had a glass jar break in his hand resulting in a severed artery.

This resulted in a rush trip to hospital to have surgery performed. I believe it was a very worrying time for Rod. Good news though that all is well and no permanent damage from this accident.

**Lynn Gibson** - last but not least on the sick list. I can report that Lynn has had the dreaded flu for close to four weeks now.

Lynn said that she has never known this type of flu to last for so long. Medication however seems to be now starting to work and she is making progress to recovery. HG in the meantime will keep on burning the pots and pans for another week or two. Lynn would like to thank her friends from Marine Rescue

who have assisted her in many ways while she has been ill. Thank you to all - it is nice to have so many caring friends.

### CROSSED THE BAR

**John Alt** I am sorry to report that one of our long time serving members from Coastal Patrol days passed away recently. John was a very good radio operator and had served time aboard cruise ships as a radio operator before joining Coastal Patrol Port Stephens. John's wife Del passed away some years ago.

To the family of our past member John Alt, may I on behalf of the Unit Commander, Deputy Unit Commander, executive officers and members of Marine Rescue Port Stephens convey our sincere condolences to you all with the passing of John.

**Garry Duckett** - On behalf of the Unit Commander, Deputy Unit Commander, executive officers members and friends, our sincere condolences to Garry with the sad loss of two of his close family members. Garry lost an aunt and uncle within two days of each other. Both aunt and uncle lived locally and Garry was very supportive and close to them both.

Garry, please be assured that all at Marine Rescue Port Stephens are thinking of you and your family in these difficult trying times.

***May the seas be calm and weather fair when I cross the bar on my next journey.***

**God Bless**

**Harold Gibson**

### 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.

# 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 !!  
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## RFS LIAISON HUNTER VALLEY & LOWER HUNTER

### RFS LIASON HUNTER VALLEY

So why do we put "FIRECALL" at the start of an Amicor page message to Brigades after a 000 Fireline call?



**BART (Broadcast, Alert, Response, Turnout).** Brigades voted to use the web based system to

contact their members to a distress emergency call, be it Fire, MVA, AFA, CFR, etc

The message FIRECALL alerts the mobile app on Brigade member's phones that it requires them to respond on their availability to an incident. This allows the Brigade Captain to understand who may be available and who is coming to the station to respond to the call. It also indicates not only numbers, but by default, the qualifications of respondents to the type of situation the callout requires e.g. are there Compressed Air



Joe Responder  
Driver  
ETA: 5 mins



Important Update:  
The incident location  
has changed  
Thanks, the map has  
been updated

Breathing Apparatus (CABA) qualified personnel coming to attend a structure fire?

Because it is a system that is internet based, it does not rely on a mobile tower to send the message, such as in a Page or SMS, but only requires an internet connection via WIFI. This is very effective in remote areas of the Hunter Valley district away from the any mobile towers.

It is not the primary method of activation for brigade members but it supplements the activation process.

Brigades in the Hunter Valley District who have voted to use the system are Mangoola, Darlington and Edinglassie.

From a report in the local Examiner

newspaper, Medowie brigade in Lower Hunter has also voted to accept the use of this system.



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

Month		Bush	Grass	Structure	CFR	MVA	Car	AFA	Other	Total
May-18	HVRFS	4	3	3	0	3	6	2	2	23
Jun-18	HVRFS	1	1	1	2	5	2	0	3	15
May-18	LHRFS	19	10	7	6	10	6	3	13	74
Jun-18	LHRFS	5	3	4	3	9	9	4	11	48
Total for 2018		97	82	31	43	71	87	26	130	563

### RFS LIAISON LOWER HUNTER

As can be seen from the stats for May/June things have been a bit quiet. This is no reason to become negligent as one only has to look at what has transpired in July to see that it is getting busy again.

#### CESSNOCK CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

If you receive a job from Fire and Rescue for an Automatic Fire Alarm at the Cessnock Correctional Facility (Gaol for the non-politically correct), do not call out Central brigade as they no longer respond to this facility. Just notify the Duty Officer and advise him of such.

#### FINGAL BAY BRIGADE

A new fire station has been built at Fingal Bay at a cost of approximately \$700,000.00. It will be opened in August and is definitely an improvement on the old station. The building has been constructed with sturdy



precast concrete and features two truck bays, a multipurpose area, modern kitchen and office facilities and also onsite parking for the volunteers

**Ross Debenham**



## FUNDRAISING

### FUNDRAISING OFFICER

Good news. Our Promotional trailer is finished and at the Sign Writer. It will be ready to work at all our August activities and we will also have it on display at the August mess meeting.

We have a Bunnings Barbeque booked on 19 Aug and hope it is a big one. We also have BBQs booked for September, October and November - let's hope we are well supported.

**Love Sea Food** has given us a site at D'Albora so we will be promoting the unit over the two days 18 and 19 August. If you could spare some time over those days it is on Sign-up on the website.

We are working on promoting the unit to the boating community during the upcoming summer season, so please keep an eye on Sign On for new events that require volunteers.



We have started to put together a raffle as a supplement to the info and donation boats at our events. This is aimed at the general public so we will have lots of prizes. BCF Heatherbrae and Taylors Beach are very supportive of us and have given us some camping gear to kick it off.

The last Nelson Bay Bowling Club sea food raffle for this year was a good earner. Thank you to the helpers who did a great job. I will be talking with the club soon to set new dates.

That's all for now

Cheers

**Peter Young**  
and the Fundraising Team.



### DONATION BOATS AND TELESCOPE.



We now have 16 boats in our community. The latest addition is on the counter at the Fishmarket Nelson Bay. Our boats at the Comms Centre and Gift Shop continue to do well. The Telescope in the grounds of the Lighthouse also does well.

YTD June 2018 the boats and telescope have made substantial donations to the Unit.

Once again thanks go to all the volunteer collectors for their hard work.

The venues for our boats are in the table on the right.

**Stephen Alta**

Comms Centre
Lighthouse Grounds Telescope
Lighthouse Cottage
Marine Rescue Gift Shop
Bits and Boats Soldiers Point
BCF Taylors Beach
BCF Heatherbrae
Newcastle Co-op
Fishmarket Nelson Bay
Boatshed Soldiers Point
Gloria Jeans
Game Fishing Club
John Dory Fish Shop
Corlette Store
Shoal Bay Newsagency
Saltmine Wanda Beach
Fingal Sports Club
Marina Icecreamery



## BIRDS AROUND THE BASE

### BIRDS AROUND THE BASE – HOW INFERTILE SOILS PRODUCED NOISY, AGGRESSIVE BIRDS AND HELPED SHAPE AUSTRALIA.

There is something extraordinary about Australian birds. Richard Schodde, Curator/Director of the Australian National Wildlife Collection, CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology, declared that bird life in Australia is “the most distinct and different in the world”. However, the early seventeenth and eighteenth century explorers, settlers and naturalists who first viewed the Australian landscape and its birds, did so through the prism of their northern European experience. Instead of emerald green meadows, tree lined shady lanes, hedgerows and wooded knolls, the landscape was dominated by “shadeless, grey, sombre-looking gum trees, stretching away in infinite monotony” (Ellis Rowen, 1898). Birds that looked similar to European species and with the same behaviours were named after their northern doppelgangers and assumed to be related species. None of our robins, wrens, magpies, thrushes, larks and finches have any relationship with their European counterparts.

Moreover, none of Australia's birds possessed the mellifluous song of the Nightingale, the Skylark, the Robin or the Song Thrush. Visiting naturalist Thomas Harvey wrote in 1854; “there are several chirpers, a few whistlers and many screamers, screechers and yelpers, but no songsters amongst the birds here”. Even John Gould, the great promoter of Australian birds, complained about the absence of the “melodious notes that make spring in England so joyous.” He wrote “the parrots screamed and the honeyeaters were monotonous” and further, “the call of the Little Wattlebird was like a person vomiting”.

The majority of these “screamers, screechers and yelpers” belong to the two largest Australian bird families, the honeyeater family (75 species) and the parrot family (55 species). Birds from these families possess a number of unique characteristics and behaviours. Some honeyeaters and parrots are the only birds known to feed solely on nectar and have evolved a bristled tongue for the purpose. Additionally, Australian honeyeaters are significantly larger than all other nectar eating birds and display an unprecedented high level of intra-species and interspecies aggression over food resources.

So what has led to Australia's birds evolving these characteristics and behaviours? The answer is believed to be - sugar. To understand how this came about we need to look to Australia's geological history. The last

mountain building episode in Australia occurred in the Carboniferous Period, around 290 million years ago. Fertile soils that formed by weathering of these mountains have long been eroded away and today most of Australia is covered with thin, poor quality, residual soils. Over millions of years, rain has leached most of the nutrients and minerals from these soils. The combination of a flat,

ancient landform, depleted soils, frequent fires and an unreliable climate has produced fauna and flora specifically adapted to survive in these harsh conditions.

The dominant flora in Australia are members of the eucalyptus genus with over 800 species, and is the second largest genus of plants on earth after figs.

Eucalypts thrive in poor soils and rely on mobile pollen rather than

mobile seeds for reproduction. Eucalypts and a number of other Australian trees uniquely rely on birds to distribute their pollen. Due to abundant sunlight, eucalypts produce large amounts of carbohydrate via photosynthesis, but are unable to convert it all to tissue or seeds due to a lack of soil nutrients. Surplus sugar is exuded as nectar in the flowers. When feeding on nectar,

bird's feathers become dusted with pollen which they can then transport large distances in a relatively short time. Eucalyptus pollen grains can remain viable for up to a week. The sporadic and patchy nature of eucalypt flowering promotes the random migration of nectar feeding birds and the distribution of pollen to distant areas. The resulting frequent cross-hybridization of eucalypts has produced the large number of species in this genus. It has also produced high levels of genetic diversity which has allowed eucalypts to adapt successfully to varying climatic conditions over tens of millions of years. Other Australian nectar producing plants that rely on birds for pollination include banksias, grevilleas, bottlebrushes, grasstrees, paperbarks and hakeas.

So what is the relationship between nectar consumption, aggressive behaviour, large size and the harsh calls of Australia's nectar feeding birds? When a bird consumes a seed or an insect the item is gone. However nectar producing flowers can continue to produce for some time; a eucalypt blossoms for up to a week and a banksia flower head for up to 20 days. Nectar is the highest



*The belief that the local fauna was in some way deficient or impoverished, plus the nostalgia of early colonists for the “Old Country” led to the formation of Acclimatization Societies in the 18th century. This movement sought to establish familiar animals into new areas while also bringing exotic and useful animals into Europe. Without a knowledge of ecology, a number of these introductions were disastrous (e.g. rabbits, foxes, myna birds). Fortunately, most attempts to introduce European birds to Australia were unsuccessful.*

(Continued on page 26)

## BIRDS AROUND THE BASE AND LIGHTHOUSE TRUST

*(Continued from page 25)*

energy food source available to birds and this encourages them to establish and defend feeding territories. A particular flower may be visited 10 to 20 times per day. Larger birds with harsh calls tend to be more aggressive and successful defenders of territory. Thus a consistent and plentiful supply of nectar has been proposed to have a role in the evolution of larger nectar feeding birds, fuelling their aggression and harsh calls, while the birds in turn have a role in pollinating and maintaining genetic diversity in the forests that supply the nectar. All of this ultimately is in response to our ancient and depleted soils.

Ecologist and author Tim Lowe described this in 2014, stating that when compared to other birds, "Australian birds are more likely than most to eat sweet foods, live in complex societies, lead long lives, attack other birds, and be intelligent and loud. They are also ecologically more powerful, having profoundly influenced Australia's forests." So the next time you see a honeyeater or a Rainbow Lorikeet feeding on eucalyptus blossom, consider the chain of complex ecological history that has led to this simple occurrence.

**Neil Fraser**  
**Twitcher**

### TRUST CHAIRMAN

The Trust welcomes new members who volunteer on ground maintenance and cottage duty - John Woodbridge, Alan Woodward, Pam Walters and Sharon Grady.

This time of year we take advantage of the fewer visitors with a number of larger maintenance projects in progress around the reserve.

South East corner of the reserve we have reduced the erosion with steps / retaining wall and beautified with coloured stones for those patrons in the tea rooms.

With the assistance of a \$5,000 grant from the Stronger Communities Program the Trust was able to replace the remaining 50 meters of hardwood fencing - improving the outlook of the reserve and bringing into line safety balustrade standards.



I would like to thank our "A" painting team (above) from left to right Peter Merlino, Ross Debenham, Alan Woodbridge, Bob Harris, Jenny and Peter Fitzsimons and John Woodward, along with many others who also volunteered to assist.

The Trust have also extended (by 600mm) the turning area on the wooden disabled access ramp just up from public car park. It is now suitable for larger electric wheelchairs and in the event of an injured person, ease of use for ambulance stretchers.

Harold Gibson organised a team of eight brave members (Harold Gibson, Peter Merlino, Peter Fitzsimons, Ross Debenham, Trevor Brighton, Alan Woodward, Trevor Moxam and Robert Stewart) and professional rigger for lowering main flagpole. Even with all the planning and precautions it was still a very precarious manoeuvre.



Unfortunately after 80 years there was dry rot and the flagpole was unsalvageable. Even Shirley Clark (picture above) agreed, with chainsaw in hand. The Trust will now organise a replacement 12M aluminium flagpole in it's place.

Around 50 students from St. Philips Christian College Year 1-2 will be visiting on Tuesday 14 August. Our volunteers will make formal presentation to the students and talk about the history of the area including Marine Rescue. They will be escorted around the reserve whilst completing their workbooks with their teachers and minders.

The Trust installed a 'visitor counter' on the fence main entrance to the reserve. As at 18 July 2018 we now have one year of official records with 145,966 visitors through in one direction. Visitor numbers during school holidays rises to 600-700 daily and this time of year around 350 daily.

Kevin and Christine Griffey are on holidays overseas visiting England, Scotland and Ireland. Kevin has kept us abreast with many photos of their exciting travel on Facebook. Kevin will be back end of July.

**Peter Merlino**  
**Deputy Chair**



## SOCIAL COMMITTEE & JULY UNIT MEETING

### SOCIAL EVENTS

Unfortunately we have had to cancel the July Mid-Year Dinner due to unavailability of planning members, and running out of time. However, we are still hoping to conduct the remaining events for 2018 as in the below table. Further details will be provided.

Frank and Laurie have recently taken on new roles within MRPS, and would dearly love to find an enthusiastic

social planner (or two!) to take over the Social Calendar. If you are interested in helping, please contact either Frank or myself, or talk directly to either the UC (Colin Foote) or anyone on the Executive team.

**Laurie Nolan and Frank van Druten**



### MRPS Social Committee 2018 schedule

Month	Date	Event	Comments
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 December	Xmas Dinner	- At a venue TBA

Year 2018 NSW Public School Holidays		
Spring Holidays	1-Oct-18	12-Oct-18
Summer Holidays	24-Dec-18	28-Jan-19



*(Continued from page 19)*

Colin Foote receiving the Gift Shop donation from Sandra Schueber and Dieter Grieter presenting a donation cheque on behalf of Rotary Club Nelson Bay



## 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.

<b>AUGUST</b>			
Lloyd CROPPER	27	Tony O'DONNELL	7
Noel CORCORAN	16	John P SMITH	7
Trevor DOWSETT	16	Carol BASTICK	6
Mike PIERPOINT	16	John HOWSON	1
Ken JOHNSON	14	Gary WILLIAMS	1
David ROGERS	14		
Stephen ALTA	13	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
Richard PIZZUTO	9	Ron LIGHTON	17
Erica SMITH	7	John COOK	15
		Elizabeth FRANCIS	15
		Angela TILLING	11
		Mike GROVER	10
		Robert STEWART	6
		Casandra BUTTERWORTH	2
		Pete HARTLEY	2
		Di LUCAS	1
		Shane William JAGER	1

# Happy Birthday

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

<b>AUGUST</b>		<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
Bob MONTGOMERY	Tim BOYLE	John REID	Ian PEACOCK
John WOODBRIDGE	Andrew TELLEY	Peter BLISS	Peter MILLER
John P SMITH	Jenni FRYER	Dieter GREITER	Juli KOKINOVSKA
Loris WEBSTER	Brett CHERRY	Adi SAMI	
Gary BELL	Richard PIZZUTO	Angus STUART	
Rob CONELIUS	Peter NASH	Brian BIBBING	
Alan WOODWARD	Kylie CARSON	Jan SAMI	
Christine RYNNE	Joanne PEARCE	Lyndall DAY	



*Keeping your music alive*

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# PORT STEPHENS WEATHER

## Nelson Bay, NSW - June 2018

Date	Day	Temps		Rain mm
		Min	Max	
		°C	°C	
1	Fr	9.1	15	33
2	Sa	11.2	18	8.6
3	Su		18.4	44.2
4	Mo	12.3	15	55.8
5	Tu	12.3	14.8	52
6	We	12	19.4	32.6
7	Th	12.5	19.8	7.9
8	Fr	12.9	17	0
9	Sa	12.9	16.5	2
10	Su	12.5	16	24.4
11	Mo	13.2	16	36.2
12	Tu	10.9	18	8.2
13	We	11.5	15.2	0
14	Th	10.1	19	0.3
15	Fr	10	20	0
16	Sa	13.1	18.5	0
17	Su	10.6	14.5	0
18	Mo	10	13.3	3.4
19	Tu	9.4	15.9	41.7
20	We	10.2	18.7	30.2
21	Th	10	15	5.2
22	Fr	9.5	14	0.4
23	Sa	9.8	18.4	0
24	Su	10	17	0.1
25	Mo	10.5	16.5	0
26	Tu	10.9	17.2	0
27	We	10.9	16.9	0.9
28	Th	12	19.7	1.3
29	Fr	9.8	15.4	4.6
30	Sa	10.4	19.5	0.1

## Statistics for June 2018

Mean	11.05	16.95	
Lowest	9.1	13.3	0
Highest	13.2	20	55.8
Total			393.1

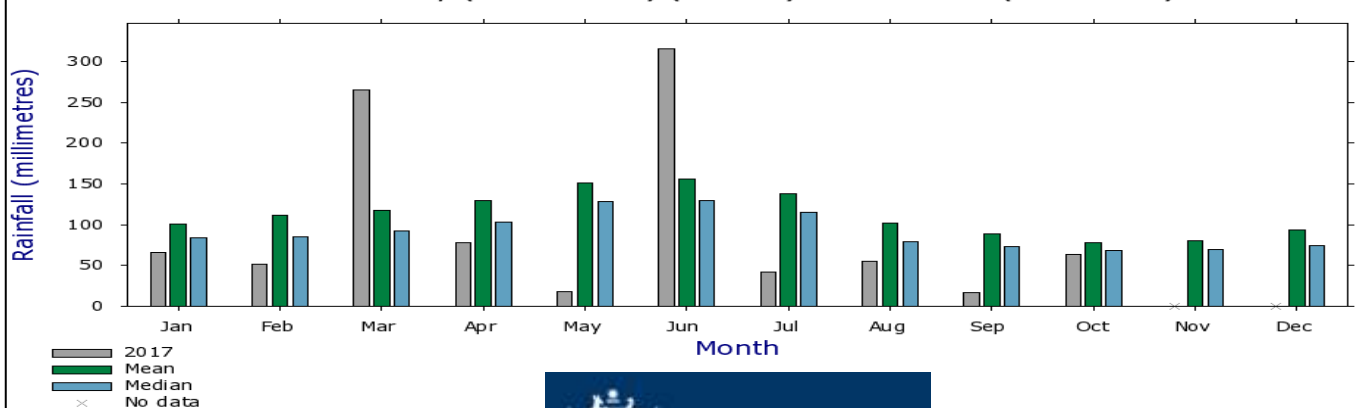
## Nelson Bay, NSW - July 2018

Date	Day	Temps		Rain mm
		Min	Max	
		°C	°C	
1	Su	9.5	16.2	0
2	Mo	11.2	17.3	2
3	Tu	11.5	16.5	2.6
4	We	11.7	18	1.6
5	Th	12.5	20.6	0.3
6	Fr	14.3	22.9	0
7	Sa	11.9	17.9	0
8	Su	10.8	15.8	0
9	Mo	10.4	16.4	0
10	Tu	9.7	15.1	7.5
11	We	10.4	17.7	1.2
12	Th	10.6	17.9	0
13	Fr	11	17.9	0
14	Sa	8	15.7	0
15	Su	6.7	17.8	0
16	Mo	8	17	0
17	Tu		21.5	0
18	We	12.2	21.3	0
19	Th	9.3	20.6	0
20	Fr	11.8	22.5	0
21	Sa	10.5	15.7	0
22	Su	7.5	17	0
23	Mo	8	18.2	0
24	Tu	9.8	22.6	0
25	We	12.0	20.7	0
26	Th	11.2		0
27				
28				
29				
30				
31				

## Statistics for July 2018

Mean	10.42	18.4	
Lowest	6.7	15.1	0
Highest	14.3	22.9	7.5
Total			15.2

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



Note: Data may not have completed quality control



## 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**



## IN APPRECIATION....

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

Colin Couper, Ross Debenham, Colin Foote, Neil Fraser, Harold Gibson, Peter Merlino, Laurie Nolan, Frank van Druten, Tony O'Donnell, Jenny Fitzsimons, Maureen Wheatley and Peter Young. Other photos by Stephen Alta, Geoff Clark, Ross Debenham, Tony O'Donnell and Peter Young. 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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<b>Radio Station</b>		Port Stephens FM 100.9

## NEXT UNIT MEETINGS



**TUESDAY 14 AUGUST 2018**  
Guest Speaker - Graham Nickisson  
Westpac Rescue Helicopter.

**TUESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 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.



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