

PORT CHATTER

MARINE RESCUE NSW
PORT STEPHENS UNIT

DECEMBER 2017



"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally"

Christmas Greetings to All





MARINE RESCUE NSW – PORT STEPHENS UNIT

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

Location: Nelson Head, Nelson Bay, NSW

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Phone: (02) 4981 3585

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VOLUNTEERS SAVING LIVES ON THE WATER

UNIT APPOINTMENTS

Patrons: Kate Washington MP, State Member Port Stephens Meryl Swanson MP, Federal Member Paterson Stephen Bromhead LLM MP, State Member Myall Lakes The Hon. Dr David Gillespie MP, Federal Member Lyne The Hon. Bob Baldwin		Awards and Recognition	Iain Blackadder
		Protocol Officer	Harold Gibson
		Corporate Services	
		Administration Officer	John Reid
		Base Centre Services	Jenny Fitzsimons
		W.H.& S Officer	Kevin Griffey
		Base Security	John P Smith
		Membership & Mentoring	Stephen Harris
			Angela Tilling
			Loris Webster
			Peter Baldwin
			Vacant
			Steve Picton
			Margaret Morrison
			Maureen Wheatley
			Lee Ryman
			Brian Richardson
			Peter Baldwin
			Robert Johnson
			Dieter Greiter
			Erica Smith
			Paul Farnill

OUR GOAL

To be the most effective Marine Rescue Unit in NSW

OUR PRIMARY FOCUS

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

MARINE RESCUE NSW – PORT STEPHENS UNIT SERVICES PROVIDED



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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FROM THE BRIDGE

UNIT COMMANDER

Welcome to the December and final edition of Port Chatter for 2017.

It's been a busy year!! To everyone's great credit, we managed the hectic 2016–17 holiday boating season without missing a shift in the Comms Centre, Gift Shop or Cottage and we responded to requests for assistance with the rescue vessels. That level of commitment has been maintained throughout 2017 although crewing the rescue vessels has been a challenge on occasions. The Trust team has also done a magnificent job in maintaining the Reserve grounds. Well done to all Unit members involved in our key operational and other functional activities.

Our first major function of the year was the Awards Ceremony on 10 February, celebrating the recognition of meritorious service and courage of 21 members from the Comms Centre and rescue vessel crew. Two highlights of the ceremony were the presentation of the inaugural Medal for Valour to Leading Crew (now a Coxswain) Laurie Nolan and the unveiling of the Honour Boards which now have pride of place in the Command Centre.



A major focus for 2017 was the sale of our grand old lady "Daniel Thain". After quite a complicated and prolonger negotiation, DT was sold and departed Port Stephens on 7 September for her new home in Brisbane. Her new owners are very pleased with the vessel's performance and their purchase.

The second major function for the year was the 35th Anniversary celebration on 4 November at the Soldiers Point Bowling Club. I've written a separate article on this celebration which appears later in this edition.

The year has seen many visits from our Patrons, politicians and local dignitaries, a number of successful grant applications, fund raising activities and the completion of a number of projects. Key successes were the ICT Upgrade Project which has vastly improved our broadband speed and reliability with some redundancy still to be delivered. Once completed, our ICT services will be the benchmark for MRNSW.

The new floating pontoon and shed at our dock is progressing with thanks to Patron The Hon Bob Baldwin (Former MP). Bob has organised several of his "mates" to assist with the materials and construction of the pontoon / shed so the cost to the Unit will be kept to a minimum. You should expect to see the new addition to our dock facility in the first quarter next year.

On 16 November a briefing was held for all past Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol Divisional Commanders and Marine Rescue Port Stephens Unit Commanders. In attendance (in chronicle order of appointment) were Reg Osborne, Neil Cameron, Rodney Reeson, Peter Phillipson, Malcolm Milliken, Robert Young, Tony



Reg Osborne, Rodney Reeson, Neil Cameron, Peter Phillipson, Lee Uebergang and Malcolm Milliken,

O'Donnell and Colin Cahill. Apologies were received from Arthur Heiler, Geoff Moore and Peter Bevan. It was great to get the "tribal elders" together and bring them up to date on what Marine Rescue Port Stephens looks like in 2017.



Another key operational area I want to recognise is our work with the Rural Fire Service (RFS). In August we commenced the after-hours communications for the RFS district of Hunter Valley (council areas of Singleton and Muswellbrook). When you combine this with the RFS district of Lower Hunter (council areas of Port Stephens, Cessnock, Maitland and Dungog) the Comms Centre is now managing RFS after-hours communications for a very large area. To date the Comms Centre has managed over 850 fire incidents and I expect this figure to

(Continued on page 7)

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NELSON BAY Upper d'Albora Marinas Ph 4984 2842 f t i

FROM THE BRIDGE.....

(Continued from page 5)

top 1000 by year's end. That's an incredible effort from our volunteers in the Comms Centre ... and also a sound reliable source of income.



RFS Hunter Valley - new premises

As we approach the busiest period of the boating season, and confronted with what may be one of the worst bush fire seasons for several years, I thank you in advance for your efforts in meeting the roster demands of the Comms

Centre, Cottage and Gift Shop and crewing requirements of the rescue vessels. It will be a demanding December – February period but I know we are up to the task. You do a great job which is well recognised by the community we strive to support. Thank you for your dedication and community focused spirit.

I'd like to wish you, your families and friends a healthy, happy and festive Christmas and New Year. Be safe and see you at the Christmas party and around the Base.

Lee Uebergang

"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally"



DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Again, we have been busy overseeing the installation of our new NBN based telephone and internet systems to future proof us for when the analogue telephone lines are closed down in 2018. We have used the opportunity to give ourselves a system that is second to none and capable of us having capacities and back up to take us past the next decade.

In line with the requirements of a Head Office Image audit we have upgraded our signage on the base and, most importantly, the boat dock. Have a good look around and if you can find an RVCP sign not in the museum you are better than us.

Our Bunnings barbeques continue to give good results. The last two days produced over \$1,100 on each occasion. The dedicated volunteers are not only getting results but from all accounts they are having fun and we now have some new barbeque chefs. Our profits are greatly enhanced by the astute buying by Jenny Fitz and Adi Sami. They can smell a bargain for miles.

We have one more Seafood Raffle at Nelson Bay Bowling Club for the year. These will produce over \$1,500. Thanks to Laurie, Frank, wives and new members like Lyndall for looking after this activity. The next team was headed by John Herrett and Pam Walters and Colin Foote will drive the last for the year.

The Hogs promotion is in full swing. Make sure you hand out the vouchers in the shop and the radio base as we are rewarded for new customers. Hogs are going into their busiest months of the year which should be good for us with more tokens than ever going into the box.

The Gift Shop is bursting with Christmas stock and there

isn't a spare space around the base to store the merchandise. The stock on offer is well focused for our market and Sandra and the ladies advise me that we are developing a strong market with residents who see the Gift Shop as a great place to buy family and staff gifts. Don't forget members get a 10% discount!

Who doesn't listen to PSFM 100.9? We have moved another step forward with PSFM presenters having access to more regular weather information placed on a dedicated web site. This has been a real technical achievement by Brian Richardson assisted by Lee Ryman. Our weather starts on PSFM every day now with the live broadcast from the Base at 06:40. We are indebted to PSFM for the support they give us and for providing us with another link to our boating community. The maritime weather is now broadcast just before the half hour from 06:00 to 18:00.

This year there won't be an Art Union put together by Head Office. We therefore need to pull all stops out in our fundraising activities, to offset almost \$60,000 the art unions have contributed over the last four years.

Very sobering going into Christmas/New Year period as an Emergency Service the whole community relies on Marine Rescue.

If the last few weekends are any indication we will all need to be on our toes to ensure we save all lives possible on inshore and offshore waters.

Neil Hansford



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CORPORATE SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION OFFICER	mentors will be allocated to each provisional member.
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- **Mentoring process** – there will be approximately three mentors each taking up to 10 provisional

The new Toshiba multi-function device in the Command Centre has been commissioned and is providing much greater versatility in printing, copying and scanning with facilities for stapling and punching holes in documents.

- **Feed-back days** – these will be designed to;
 - △ Review completion of learner activity work books

<p>A far-reaching review of membership has been completed. This review has revealed a large number of ordinary and provisional members who are not active within the Unit. These members have been advised of our intention to terminate their membership and this will be put into effect in the second half of November.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Review completion of learner activity work books ◇ Review completion of skills logs ◇ Review completion of MRPS activity logs <p>Final details of this Recruitment/Mentoring process are being developed and a time schedule for these meetings</p>
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A further review of the management of provisional members has indicated that more effort is required to nurture these members through the first six months of their membership. This view has been reinforced by the results of the recent Marine Rescue engagement survey. While Marine Rescue Port Stephens performed well when compared to other units in the Hunter Central Coast Region, there is room for improvement. We have identified that we do not have a recruitment problem, we have a retention problem. There are far too many provisional members not participating in unit activities and not completing the required training courses. The majority of these members either resign before the end of their six month provisional period or have to be terminated because of their lack of involvement in unit activities.

will be available by mid December.

Suitable advertising of the Information Nights will be made through local media, MRPS web page, Facebook and participation at various boating activities over the summer period.

Technical Services

- The ICT project for the change-over to the new NBN communication line is progressing well with the following activities currently being completed:
- Final four lines (out of a total of eight) are being ported over to the NBN connection
- Negotiations with Body Corporate Services and the Ramada Resort at Shoal Bay have been completed successfully. A new NBN connection has been

We have therefore proposed a new process for the recruitment and management of provisional members which consists of the following steps:

- **Information nights** – a general overview of MRPS/ MRPS range of operations and training requirements. Application forms will be distributed at the completion of this briefing.
 - **Interviews** – group meeting with our Membership Officer to review application forms and get them finalised prior to sending them to HO for processing.
 - **Inductions** – presentation by all operational areas of the unit; a visit to the Comms Centre and a Fire Evacuation drill. At the conclusion of this induction
- fibre connection between MRPS and the Ramada site as a back-up to the existing NBN land line connection. This back-up will seamlessly transfer all of our communication traffic in the event of a fault or disconnection in the land line.
- Further to this work we have moved our communication link to BOM for weather reports over to email as our new NBN connection is not compatible with the current BOM computer/modem set up.
- John Reid**

mentors will be allocated to each provisional member.

- **Mentoring process** – there will be approximately three mentors each taking up to 10 provisional members. These mentors will provide guidance on Comms Centre rosters, enlistments in training courses and general MRPS unit activities.
- **Feed-back days** – these will be designed to;
 - ◇ Review completion of learner activity work books
 - ◇ Review completion of skills logs
 - ◇ Review completion of MRPS activity logs

Final details of this Recruitment/Mentoring process are being developed and a time schedule for these meetings will be available by mid December.

Suitable advertising of the Information Nights will be made through local media, MRPS web page, Facebook and participation at various boating activities over the summer period.

Technical Services

- The ICT project for the change-over to the new NBN communication line is progressing well with the following activities currently being completed:
- Final four lines (out of a total of eight) are being ported over to the NBN connection
- Negotiations with Body Corporate Services and the Ramada Resort at Shoal Bay have been completed successfully. A new NBN connection has been ordered for installation at the Ramada premises. Once this is in place contractors will install cabling and antenna at his site and similar cabling and antenna at the MRPS Nelson Head site. This will provide an air fibre connection between MRPS and the Ramada site as a back-up to the existing NBN land line connection. This back-up will seamlessly transfer all of our communication traffic in the event of a fault or disconnection in the land line.
- Further to this work we have moved our communication link to BOM for weather reports over to email as our new NBN connection is not compatible with the current BOM computer/modem set up.

John Reid



35-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

MARINE RESCUE PORT STEPHENS 35 YEARS OF SERVING THE COMMUNITY

It all started in October of 1982 when the Port Stephens Examiner contained a small advertisement inviting people with an interest in boating to attend a meeting at the local Game Fishing club on 2 November. The advertisement was placed by a concerned local resident, Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol's (RVCP) Captain-North, John Thompson. The meeting was to canvass the formation of a local Division of the RVCP. The subsequent forum was both well attended and successful



Ms Liesl Tesch AM State Member for Gosford

with over twenty people signing up as foundation members and Kevin Clark being "volunteered" as the first Divisional Commander and the rest is history!!

Now jump to 2017. Planning for the 35th Anniversary function started 12 months ago and culminated when 98 Unit members and guests celebrated with a dinner dance at the Soldiers Point Bowling Club on Saturday 4 November. Master of Ceremonies Ms Jaimie Abbott, a Port Stephens Councillor, commented "The list of dignitaries who attended is a strong indication of the high regard that Marine Rescue Port Stephens is held both within the local community but also further afield".



Ms Kate Washington, Mr Lee Uebergang, Ms Liesl Tesch AM and Ms Meryl Swanson.

In the opening address, Unit Commander Lee Uebergang stated, "Tonight is all about recognising 35 years of community service by Marine Rescue Port Stephens and its predecessor organisation the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol. Our primary focus is *"saving lives on open and closed waters"*. Everyone involved in this Unit since 1982 should feel proud of their selfless volunteering because our work saves lives, which makes a huge difference to everyday Australians and that is very Australian! I'm proud to be a member of Marine Rescue Port Stephens."

The guest list was impressive; The Honourable Troy Grant MP, Minister for Emergency Services was represented on the night by Mr Scot MacDonald, MLC and Parliamentary Secretary for Planning, the Central Coast and the Hunter. Mr MacDonald, who is very familiar with Marine Rescue Port Stephens, praised the Unit's operational record and the fact that it has been operating 24/7 since 1988.

Detective Superintendent Mark Hutchings APM, Commander, Marine Area Command, NSW Police Force welcomed the chance to say a few words before he raised a glass to toast the Unit. "NSW boasts the most professional and effective maritime search and rescue service in the world and the NSW Police could not provide that service without its partner in Marine Rescue NSW." Detective Superintendent Hutchings went on to say "Marine Rescue Port Stephens is a prime example of

professional men and women, both retired and some still working, coming together as volunteers to perform their duties in a professional and exemplary manner".

Three of the Units Patrons also attended; Ms Meryl Swanson MP, Federal Member for Paterson, Ms Kate Washington MP, State Member for Port Stephens and Mr Stephen Bromhead LLM MP,

(Continued on page 11)



Mr Scot MacDonald MLC and Parliamentary Secretary for Planning, the Central Coast and the Hunter.

35-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

(Continued from page 10)

State Member for Myall Lakes. Other dignitaries joining the festivities were Air Commodore Craig Heap CSC, Senior ADF Officer at RAAF Williamtown and Mr Steve Raymond, Regional Operations Manager for the Hunter / Central Coast Region representing Commissioner Stacey Tannos ESM and Mr James Glissan ESM QC, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Marine Rescue NSW.

The guest speaker for the

*Detective Superintendent Mark Hutchings
APM, Commander,
Marine Area Command,*

evening was the amazing Ms Liesl Tesch AM, MP, State Member for Gosford. Ms Tesch captivated the audience with her story of how she



L to R) Dawn & Lee Uebergang welcome Jenny and Peter Fitzsimons

became an incomplete paraplegic after a mountain bike accident at the age of 19. Not to be deterred she went on to compete in the national wheelchair basketball team at

five Paralympics, winning three medals, and was the first woman to play wheelchair basketball professionally. She took up sailing in 2010, winning gold medals at the 2012 London and 2016 Rio Paralympics. She has also competed in two Sydney to Hobart yacht races. In thanking Ms Tesch, Unit Commander Lee Uebergang described her speech as "highly inspirational, entertaining



Guests with Ms Liesl Tesch (wheelchair)



Guests dancing

and a candid recollection of a triumph over adversity, and a wonderful sporting career".

Fine food and wine, lucky door prizes, the mandatory raffle, short speeches, music and dancing along with an excellent MC and a very entertaining guest speaker resulted a great night for everyone attending.

Article by Lee Uebergang

Unit Commander Marine Rescue Port Stephens



*Mr Steve Raymond, Regional
Operations Manager for the Hunter /
Central Coast Region*

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DONATION BOATS AND GIFT SHOP

DONATION BOATS

For the last five months the Boats have been working



hard with total donations as follows:

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Telescope \$799.00

Gift shop - \$589.85

Cottage - \$336.10

BCF from Barbeque - \$118.00

BCF Taylors Beach - \$204.00

Shoal Bay Newsagent - \$207.50

Saltmine Wanda Beach - \$87.60.

Corlette Store - \$59.85

Total: \$2,596.55

Excellent results for five months. We now have 14 boats in different shops in the community. I will remove some boats from venues that are not performing well and place some in new shops for 2018.

I would like to thank the volunteer collectors, for the great job they have been doing, collecting and counting the donations.

Stephen Alta



At our October Gift Shop meeting, our guest speaker was Loris Webster. Loris told us stories of her life and family, growing up in Papua New Guinea also of the history and many languages spoken there.

We found her experiences very interesting and we thank Loris for sharing them with us.

The Gift Shop has been very busy over the past twelve months, and Christmas is fast approaching. We have been rushed off our

feet with the purchasing of stock, unpacking and pricing, and lots of heavy lifting.



Diane Baillie and Loris Webster

I would like to thank all the ladies for their support, and in particular Denise Olson, whose valued help makes my job just a little easier. Thank you again Denise.

We wish everyone in Marine Rescue a very merry Christmas and a happy, safe and healthy New Year.

Sandra Scheuber



*Sunrise from above
D'Albora Marina*



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OPERATIONS

OPERATIONS OFFICER

This section of Port Chatter deals with our physical operations, namely Radio Base and Boat. This magazine has a wide diversity of readers both inside and outside of Marine Rescue Port Stephens. As this is the last publication for 2017 I would like to quickly summarise our operations for all our readers.

We exist to save lives on the water – both on waters within the Bay and on outside waters. That is our reason for being – all other reasons are subservient. Every member works towards our Mission no matter what their role.



As we explained in the last issue of Port Chatter, we are continually training to ensure we serve the boating public whenever we are called upon.

Up to the end of October our Radio Base crews have covered 304 days (24 hours per day) which equates to 912 Shifts. During that time we have conducted a mind-blowing number of radio and telephone calls. Some of those calls are simple and routine however some are more urgent and some deal directly with saving lives at sea – May Day calls from distressed boats.

Year to date to the end of October our Radio Base has managed 182 Marine Incidents. A number of those have been May Day calls which demand strict adherence to well established procedures to get people help. The first call is always to the Marine Area Command of the Water Police.

It is hard to tell how many lives are directly saved by the efforts of our Radio Base because our procedures work and help is quickly dispatched to those in need. Very often our boats are tasked to assist those in trouble on the water.

Many people will be aware that out of hours our radio base becomes the RFS communications centre for the Lower Hunter Valley and the Hunter Valley regions. To the end of October our radio base has managed 787 RFS incidents (meaning taking the initial 000 Call and dispatching RFS Units).

Putting those 2 numbers together (183 Marine Incidents and 787 RFS Incidents) means our very professional radio base and staff have handled 969 incidents. An amazing statistic when you come to think of it and a

statistic we are very proud of.

Our boats respond when tasked by the Water Police no matter what the hour or day. Our boat crews have through the year been out on the water at all hours doing the job which is asked of them. We have always been able to respond when tasked.

Jobs on the water this year ranged from helping boat skippers with flat batteries or running out of fuel to complete engine or gear failure.

A large number of boats have been towed back to safety – sometimes from inside waters but very often from way off the coast. Our longest job this year was to assist a vessel 28 nautical miles off the heads.

On at least two occasions we have pulled people from the water to safety. Earlier in the year there was a memorable occasion where we rescued two young people who were paddling but caught in a strong runout tide at the heads.

We appreciate the good working relationship Marine Rescue Port Stephens has with the local Water



Police. Just recently we were directed by them to assist with the search for a missing snorkeler off Birubi Point.

Another group we have are the Callout Officers who operate at all times of the day and night arranging boat crews and channel ling vital communications to the Water Police and others.

There is not a lot of fanfare with the work we do and that goes with the territory.

As the Operations Officer I want to salute the work our people have done throughout 2017. You have performed amazing tasks and made our community a safer place to live. You are all Volunteers and that is what makes Australia such a special place.

Finally our motto is "Volunteers doing the jobs professionally". You do that and with every new experience we get even better and better.

Merry Christmas to all our members and readers. We trust everybody will be safe on the water this holiday period.

Tony O'Donnell

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BOATS OFFICER AND RFS LIAISON HUNTER VALLEY

BOATS OFFICER

Once again this will be a short report as I have been away a fair bit of the time and both boats have been behaving themselves.



Dealing with Codi K II (PS30) first. We have a continuing problem with the depth sounder in that the net of the pen that Codi sits in dislodges the sender unit on the transom each time we tie up and the damage is such that the sender cannot be refitted. The unit is an Airmar P66 so if any readers out there have a possible solution give me a call.

As Codi is due for an engine service before the end of the year which involves borrowing MRLTP's trailer, we propose slipping her at Noakes this time and repairing a slight leak in the port sponson at the same time. Other than that, she is performing well.

The John Thompson (PS 31) has no major problems at this time and all systems are working. The new Multi Function Display is working well and the crew is becoming familiar with its operation and the added information it provides.

There is still a problem with the rusting of the stainless steel and another area of concern has been found at the base of the port, rear Targa support tube.

Some minor damage has been caused by the crew as is normal in a working boat, but all has been rectified.

All in all, the Wednesday maintenance team have given me great support, especially Ian and Rex who work alone on Codi.

Also a warm welcome to our new crew trainees, Sarah Charters, Ian Jack and Nigel Evans. You are welcome on Wednesday mornings as well which will assist you with learning the ins and outs of both craft.



Ken Johnson

RFS LIAISON HUNTER VALLEY

The morning of 11 October had Tony O'Donnell's 4WD motoring up the Hunter Expressway with Lee Uebergang, Colin Cahill and Colin Couper on board, to meet up with Mike Grover at Bulga for an inspection of the Hunter Valley RFS Fire Control facility. It's a fairly long way!



Damian Honor, District Officer for HV, conducted an inspection of their recently

built facility, introducing us to Group Captains (whose names are familiar to Watchkeepers as Duty Officers) the Communication volunteers led by Comms Captain Judy Smith and other welcoming members of HV RFS.

Some key points are:

- Hunter Valley RFS, covers the LGA of Muswellbrook and Singleton with a total area of 9700 square Kms
- There are 28 Brigades with three support brigades, that being Support, Comms and Catering.
- 1180 members and six Group officers make up the brigades and are supported by seven staff.
- There are 61 fire appliances (Trucks). With a further 25 Support vehicles and trailers, made up of utes, a 12 seater bus, troop carriers, bulk water trucks and two CFR dedicated vehicles.
- They also have specialty groups, that are made up from the volunteer and staff base, such as:
 - * RAFT - Remote Area Firefighting Team
 - * FI - Fire Investigation
 - * CFR - Community First Responders (Howes Valley and Bulga)
 - * Bulk water driver.



(Continued on page 19)



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RFS LIAISON HUNTER VALLEY AND LOWER HUNTER

(Continued from page 17)

In the near future (2018) they are getting two motor bikes for recon. and will train members in Road Crash Rescue, especially for the busy Putty Road.

The Area is made up of predominantly private property and National Parks. The majority of private properties are in the Mining sector, There are also horse breeding properties and vineyards followed by rural lands used for farming purposes plus an Army firing range with its own fire ignition possibilities.

A return visit by three of the Group Captains, John Hedley, Fred Turner and Warren Welsh to Nelson Bay occurred on 20 November where they were shown around the Trust Site, the Comms Centre and PS30 &

PS31 at the dock. When asked for feedback, the group assured us that we were doing a great job and especially remarked about our pro-activeness (other than following the Duty Officer's directions) when running an incident. The only comment they made was that a few of their units felt that it did sometimes take time to reply to a yellow call to Firecom. However, they will pass back to their brigades that we may be on a marine or Lower Hunter call at the time, especially at night, and will get back to them asap.

Colin Couper

Incidents handled by MRPS for LHRFS and HVRFS over the last two months are in the table below:

Month		Bush/Grass	Structure	CFR	MVA	Car	AFA	Other	Total
Sep-17	LHRFS	44	5	3	13	12	0	11	88
Oct-17	LHRFS	17	4	6	12	13	0	20	72
Sep-17	HVRFS	11	0	0	6	2	2	8	29
Oct-17	HVRFS	5	2	1	8	2	1	6	25

RFS LIAISON LOWER HUNTER

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS:

A month or so ago I did a trip through the Cessnock region, and as is my wont I ended up getting lost. Well, not lost. I just didn't know how I got to where I got. I ended up in the small village of North Rothbury and seeing a sign to the North Rothbury RFS I decided to have a look. Upon arrival I found a memorial had been set up for



Memorial to Dep Cap Paul Sanderson

Deputy Captain Paul Sanderson, a 19 year veteran of the unit who paid the ultimate price in a bush fire near Cessnock in November, 2015. It makes you think that most times we are the only conduit between the men in the fire ground and the outside world. Thus we should attempt to give them the best service that we can at all times.

CABA: When a team from MR went out to RFS headquarters at East Maitland a month or so ago we finally learnt the secret of CABA

(Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus). When CABA is used there has to be a team of at least four operators. Two operators to go into the building and two are in reserve outside to retrieve those inside if anything goes wrong.

A few weeks ago there was a small

structure fire at Salamander shops with two Fire and Rescue and four RFS appliances attending.

Ross Debenham



CABA Unit



RFS Unit at Little Salamander Shops

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WELFARE

WELFARE OFFICER

Members on the Sea Sick List and news around the Port.

Peter Fitzsimons our ever popular master of grounds curator at the base has been on the not well list recently. Peter has had eye surgery performed, plus the dreaded sun cancer operations. This didn't stop our Peter and he has been seen back on deck a few days after his hospital stay. The grounds certainly look a picture of health at the base thanks to Peter.

Shirley Clark has also had a stay in hospital recently after picking up a terrible virus that has been going around the Port. No worries with Shirley now. Like Peter, she was soon back at the base reporting for duties.

Well done Shirley we are all thinking of you and truly hope you are now ok.

Ken Ross-Sampson Is having a few weeks off duty while wife Nola spends some time with their grandchildren overseas. Ken will have the lawns and house work looking pristine for Nola's return.

Ian Peacock has also been having some time off from base duties with a small medical problem that he has been having treatment for. Ian as we all know is a very dedicated base radio operator and I am sure will be back for the upcoming busy boating season.

Barry Hayes is no longer able to do his Cottage/Museum shifts due to a medical condition. However Barry along with wife Barbara, follow the progress of Marine Rescue at Port Stephens very closely as it means a great deal to them. All the best Barry and Barbara, you have both spent many years with the Port Stephens unit and are very much appreciated.

Noel Corcoran has left the boat crew after many years and has now joined the team of workers at the Lighthouse/Museum. This is an important role played by these members - relaying information and history of the Inner Light building and promoting the Marine Rescue Base.

With your local knowledge and many years of experience on the waterways of Port Stephens Noel, I am sure you will be a great advocate, for both the Trust and Marine Rescue.

Brian Harrold one of our valued Cottage/Museum volunteers and Marine Rescue member, has had to resign from all duties because of ongoing health problems.

Brian, may I, on behalf of the Trust and Marine Rescue Port Stephens unit, say thank you for the years that you have spent with us. Your services at the base will be missed as well as your kind fellowship. All the best. We are all thinking of you.

Monica Thompson recently celebrated a milestone birthday and news that she is a great grandmother again. Moni was sighted enjoying a family gathering at the Inner Light Tea Rooms having a great time. Monica also had news for her family, that she had just passed her seniors

driving test with an excellent score rating. Well done Moni both for your birthday and passing such a very trying test.

Steve Chauncy I am sure that I can speak on behalf of all members of Port Stephens unit and wish Steve all the best for a very large operation that he is about to have performed at the John Hunter hospital. Also to his wife Julie who must be going through a lot of worrying times. All the best Steve and Julie. We are all here to support you both.

I would like to say thank you to so many members who passed on their condolences recently with the passing of my mother. Thank you for the floral tributes from the base, and the many cards and calls. May I say thank you to all on behalf of my family. A special thanks to Jenny Fitzsimons for all of her care and support. Much appreciated Jen.

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.**

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Wedding Co-Ordinator

Mobile: 0491 135 102

E mail: lighthouse.weddings@yahoo.com.au

LIGHTHOUSE WEDDINGS



1 October, 2017
Wedding of Vivian and Bruce Scott of Sydney



7 October, 2017 Wedding
of Trudie and Phillip
Campey of Nelson Bay



28 October, 2017
Wedding of Sarah and
Peter Saville of London,
England



27 October, 2017
Wedding of Kiralea and
Mark George of Darwin

WEDDING CO-ORDINATOR

It's hard to believe that 2017 is coming to an end. With 25 Weddings already behind us and still four to go, it has been a busy but fun year. To be able to share in such an important day in peoples' lives has been very rewarding. It's also been of interest to see how far and wide people travel, to be married at the



11 November, 2017
Wedding of Taryn and Oody
Dedman of Fingal Bay

Inner Light, Port Stephens. It is a beautiful place.

At this time, for the year 2018, we have 24 weddings booked, no doubt there will be more to come, we average at least one enquiry a week, sometimes more. So it's going to be another busy year.

I'd like to thank Harold, Peter, Kevin and Peter Fitz, for the help they have given me this year, we sure have had lots of laughs. Those seat covers get you guys, every time!!! Not easy working them out!! Just recently Lyn Gibson has joined the Wedding Team and her help already is greatly appreciated. I look forward to us enjoying and sharing all things 'Weddings'.

On behalf of the Wedding Team we would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Jenny Fitzsimons

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LIGHTHOUSE WEDDINGS

A lovely thank you note for their July Wedding to our Wedding Co-ordinators Jenny and Peter Fitzsimons from Juanita and David Lyle.

Dear Jenny & Peter

Thank you for our fantastic wedding gift
We are overwhelmed with your generosity
and well wishes as we happily start our journey of married life.
We feel so special and enjoyed our wedding so much,
we want to do it all over again!

Just wanted to thank you both & all
the Lighthouse Reserve Trust & Marine
Rescue team for making the headland
look so beautiful on our wedding day. A
lot of work goes on behind the scenes

to make things work & our day
was perfect. Your organisation,
attention to detail & caring attitude
made our ceremony perfect in every
way.

Much thanks & Best Wishes

Juanita & David Lyle



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Colin (vendor)

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Suzanne (buyer)

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Tracy Lewis
Real Estate Agent
0422 294 499



Grace Bissett
Sales and Marketing
Licensed Real Estate Agent
4984 4700

LIGHTHOUSE TRUST

LIGHTHOUSE TRUST CHAIRMAN

The Trust is presently planning its 2018 works program which will include amongst other works, a path to the old WWII Bunker and hopefully opening up the Bunker for tourists. It is our intention to install a WWII display inside the Bunker as we frequently receive requests from tourists to see inside the Bunker.

Another project for 2018 is a review of the vehicle parking to determine if it is possible to increase the number of vehicle parking spots in the Public parking area. If this is possible it would free up two additional spots for the Marine Rescue Members.



A Black London Cab was the car of choice at the wedding of Sarah and Peter Saville

Increasing the parking spots on our sandy hill Reserve is both very complex and expensive. This - and all of the Trust's works - is achieved by the gold coin donations it receives from the Tea Room customers/tourists and placed in the Museum donation box plus the rental from the Tea Rooms Lease.

Availability of the Tea Rooms parking area is one of the Terms and Conditions of the Tea Rooms Lease. The Tea Rooms operate from 10am to 4pm daily. During these hours, Marine Rescue Members are not to use any of the vehicle spots in the public parking area nor the two parking spots on the western side of the disabled vehicle parking spot. We need your cooperation when you are attending any official Marine Rescue function between 10am and 4pm daily.

Also It has come to our attention that a few of our Members are using the public Disabled Vehicle Parking spot when they are on Marine Rescue, Gift Shop or Trust duty or training. The public Disabled parking spot is intended to be used by short term customers/visitors to the Nelson Head Lighthouse Reserve. This allows people with a disability to have easier access to the disabled ramp in order that they can visit the Tea Rooms, Museum, Gift Shop and Marine Rescue Operations Room.

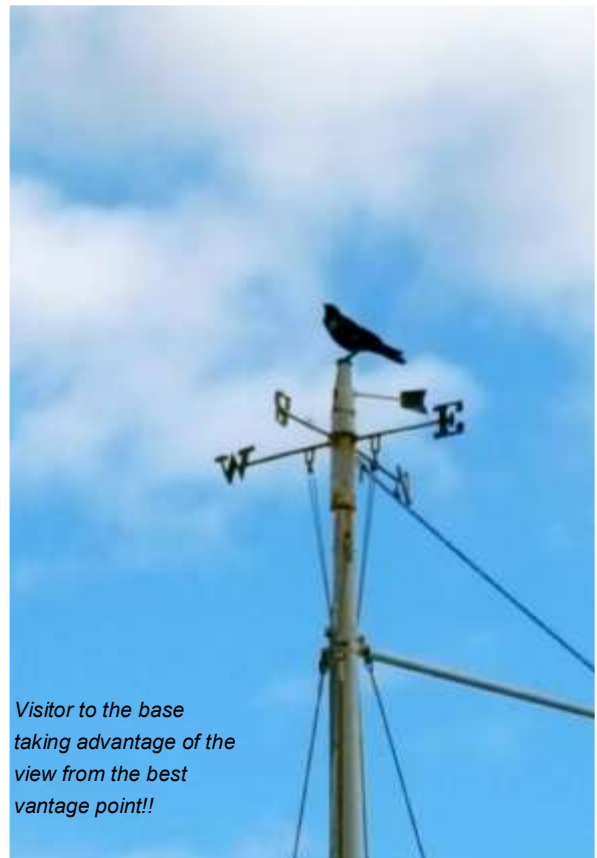
This spot was **not intended** to be used by Marine

Rescue Members with an entitled Disability Parking Permit as there are allocated Marine Rescue vehicle parking spots alongside.

How quickly 2017 has passed by us. The Trust Sub-Committee Members, Grounds Staff, Museum Attendants and Wedding Co-ordinators and Assistants have been outstanding in the way they have performed their roles and given up their time to maintain the Reserve. Staff from the Department of Industry, Lands Hunter Region have congratulated all of us for our work and identified the Nelson Head Lighthouse as amongst the best managed and cared-for Reserves.

On behalf of all of us, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2018.

Kevin Griffey



Visitor to the base taking advantage of the view from the best vantage point!!



Steve Picton cleaning the windows of the Comms Centre

FISHERIES RESEARCH FACILITY VISIT

SOCIAL EVENTS



The visit to the Fisheries Research facility run by NSW Dept of Primary Industries was a GREAT SUCCESS. We had 53 members and guests

they reach their goal weight of 3-4 kgs in the New Year. It's also great news that the team is achieving world-leading results in Shark Research and how it can help protect swimmers and fishers on the NSW coast.

The site tour was fascinating. We saw the work being done to breed fingerlings for the stocking program, and to provide better feeds and environments for breeding both fish and oysters..... although I must say some of the supposedly very nutritious additives looked quite unappetising (yucky algal blooms galore).

A big thank you to all members for co-operating with the car pooling arrangements, and especially those who provided cars to shuttle members from the Bunnings carpark, to and from the site.

The next event is the Xmas Dinner on Tuesday 12 December in the Crows Nest



put their name down for the visit on the Signup-Genius website, and were very warmly received at the Taylors Beach site.

Ian Powell, Site Manager, initially addressed the group as a whole, outlining the overall role of the facility and the specific projects which are conducted there. It was amazing to learn that there are close to 150 employees and researchers on site, many of whom



room at NB Bowling Club. There are currently 50 members and guests booked in via the TryBooking



have wide-ranging responsibilities including field sites and adjunct offices all over NSW.

Before starting our tour of the site facilities, we heard from a couple of Project Managers about the work they are doing. The relationship with Huon Aquaculture, and their role in the development and commercialisation of the Fish Farms up near Broughton Island was explained. It will be great to see the promised local processing of the Yellowtail Kingfish when



(Continued on page 29)

FISHERIES RESEARCH FACILITY VISIT

(Continued from page 28)



(Laurie Nolan) on 0406 747 847 and I will facilitate your booking.]

website (as at 26 Nov). Please note that there is a maximum of 65 seats available in the Crows Nest room, so if you are intending to attend but are yet to put your name down..... PLEASE do it very soon to avoid the disappointment of missing out. [Note: if you are having difficulty with the TryBooking system, please call me

The 2018 Events Program is yet to be finalised. We will let you all know in good time.

Laurie Nolan & Frank van Druten

MRPS Social Calendar - 2017/2018 schedule

Month	Date	Event	Comments
DECEMBER	Tuesday 12	XMAS Dinner	- Crows Nest Room - Nelson Bay Bowling Club

Year 2017 Public School Holidays		
Summer Holidays	16-Dec-17	29-Jan-18

BIRDS AROUND THE BASE

BIRDS AT THE BASE

Crested Tern (*Thalasseus bergii*)

The Crested Tern is a large sea bird that is found around bays and harbours, roosting on boats and jetties and in mixed flocks on beaches and sandbars with Silver Gulls. It is common in all Australian coastal regions and around the coast of



the Indian Ocean and the western central Pacific Ocean.

The Crested Tern is a large sea bird 43-48 cm in length with a prominent black crown and nape of erectile feathers over a white forehead. The upper parts of the wings and the shallowly forked tail are mid-grey. All underparts are white. It has a large yellow slightly down curved bill, the eye is dark brown and the feet black. Both sexes have the same plumage. The upper parts of immature birds are freckled dusky and white, the crown is weakly developed and the bill is pale yellow.

The Crested Tern feeds on rising tides in the early morning and late afternoon. It catches prey by diving from a height of 7 – 10 metres into the sea to a depth of about half a metre. It feeds mainly on small fish but occasionally takes prawns and squid. It is often seen 'skimming' the water with fish in its bill possibly cleaning it. It commonly steals food from other Crested Terns, usually at breeding colonies.

Crested Terns are highly vocal, especially during the breeding season. The most common call heard at sea or roosting sites away from the colony is a throaty 'krrroorr'.

At the start of the breeding season between July and August large numbers of terns begin to roost some distance from the nesting colony at a

traditional pre-breeding site which becomes the centre of displays between prospective mates. This includes courtship behaviour, partner feeding and copulation. After several weeks of pre-breeding, usually early September, the terns move suddenly to the nesting colony and lay simultaneously.

Nests in the colony are densely packed and adjacent owners can touch each other's bills. The nest is a small scrape about 30 cm in diameter, usually unlined or sparsely lined with grass. The female lays one large egg (61 X 41mm) that comprises about 15% of her body weight. After laying, both birds incubate the egg for 21 - 24 days. When the chick hatches, it is brooded and fed by both parents in the nest for about three days before being led away from the colony. Parents continually brood the chick until it is old enough to join a crèche with others. The chicks are fed by both parents with small fish. Chicks fledge after 38-40 days and



parents will continue to feed begging juveniles for several months. This long dependency may be necessary to give the young time to perfect their fishing techniques before becoming completely independent. After the breeding season most birds depart the colony.

Crested Tern breed on predator free off-shore islands where the number of birds nesting varies with the availability of food resources. The largest colony in NSW is on Montague Island where there can be 700 – 1000 nest sites. A small breeding colony is present on Broughton Island with around 30 nests.

**Neil Fraser
Twitchee**

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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.

DECEMBER

Helen PETERSON
Paul FARNILL
Roy DORWARD
Sandra SCHEUBER
Esme HULL
Patricia CATES
Netta ANDERSON
John HERRETT
Brian BIBBING
John REID

16
11
9
6
6
6
5
2
2
2

JANUARY

Kev LANYON
John ALMGREN
Yvonne ALMGREN
Ken ROSS-SAMPSON
Barney PINNEY
Bob CASE
Peter EDWARDS
Ian PEACOCK
Geoff CLARK
Judith JONES
Bob CROSS

24
20
20
19
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3
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2
2
2

Debbie BUCKLEY
Paul BUCKLEY
Eddy VAN DYKEN
Laurie NEWTON
Matt BREALEY
Sarah CHARTERS
Terry GRAYSTONE
Ross CAMBOURN
Valerie BENNET
Rob CONELIUS
Nigel EVES
Zoe EVES

2
2
2
2
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1
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1
1

Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following members of the PORT STEPHENS UNIT with birthdays in December and January

DECEMBER

Brian CARROLL
Helen PETERSON
Lorraine SHAW
Mike SMITH
Peter BALDWIN
Patricia CATES
Bob CASE
Faye PANDELIS
John HERRETT
Keith DYKES

Rob MASON
John HOWSON
Angus MACKENZIE
Gary WILLIAMS
Laurie NEWTON
Sue FREEMAN
Heather PERRY-COMLEY
Sarah CHARTERS
Mick MILTON
Pete HARTLEY
Jordan COGGAN

JANUARY

Yvonne ALMGREN
Shirley CLARK
John COOK
Eryl THOMAS
Bruce LUNNON
Ian DRUMMOND
Rena GARDINER
Andrew MACLACHLAN
Irene WALKLETT

Judith JONES
Garry McKITTRICK
Joy DAWSON
Sandra SCHEUBER
Peter HOLMAN
John MORGAN
Michael DUGGAN
Maree BUGGY
Matt DARBY
Harriet BAILEY-HEWITT
Tom MILLER

PORT STEPHENS WEATHER

Nelson Bay, NSW - October 2017

Date	Day	Temps		Rain
		Min	Max	
		°C	°C	mm
1	Su	14.1	21.7	0
2	Mo	14.8	22.8	0
3	Tu	15.7	24	0.8
4	We	16.5	24.5	0.1
5	Th	17.5	24	0.2
6	Fr	18.5	24.6	0
7	Sa	16.5	20.2	0
8	Su	16	22.2	0
9	Mo	17.6	28.8	0.8
10	Tu	17.9	21	1.4
11	We	18	23.5	3.2
12	Th	18.6	28.5	6.8
13	Fr	16.8	23	0
14	Sa	18.7	21.4	0
15	Su	16.8	23.6	3.2
16	Mo	16.8	23.5	0.5
17	Tu	18.2	24.5	0.1
18	We	17.5	25.9	0
19	Th	17.2	25.3	0
20	Fr	17.5	20.5	0
21	Sa	14.5	19.8	18.8
22	Su	13.4	22.2	0.1
23	Mo	13.3	21	2.2
24	Tu	13.9	22.7	0.1
25	We	17.3	30.2	0
26	Th	18.9	26.4	0.1
27	Fr	14.2	22.7	21.5
28	Sa	17.4	24.4	3.6
29	Su	18.5	26.6	0
30	Mo	19	32	0
31	Tu	14.5	18.9	0.6

Statistics for October 2017

Mean	16.6	23.9	
Lowest	13.3	18.9	0
Highest	19	32	21.5
Total			64.1

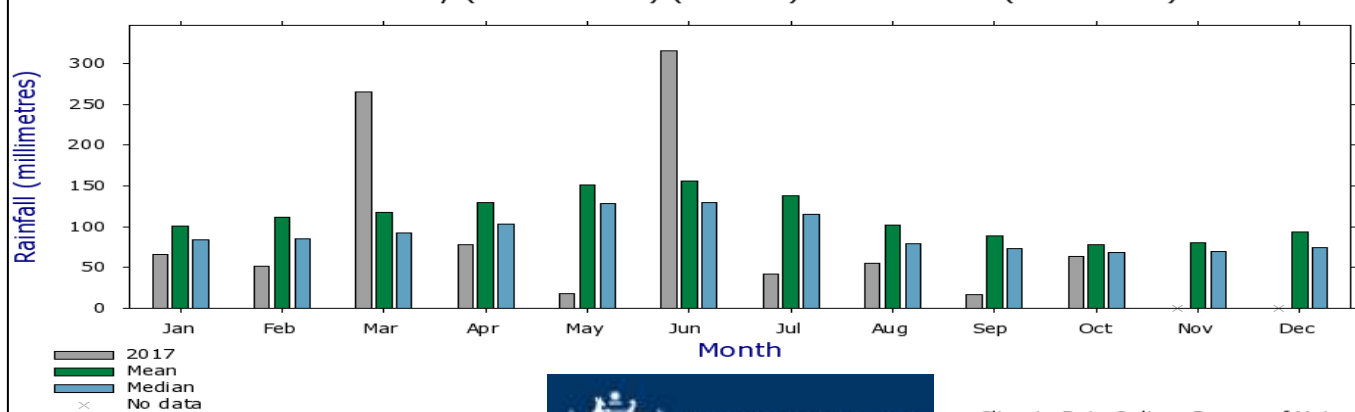
Nelson Bay, NSW - November 2017

Date	Day	Temps		Rain
		Min	Max	
		°C	°C	mm
1	We	13.4	20	2.2
2	Th	14.8	23.3	0
3	Fr	16.3	24.5	0
4	Sa	16.5	21.1	1
5	Su	15.6	20.3	11.4
6	Mo	16.8	25.4	4.8
7	Tu	14.3	20.5	8.5
8	We	13.2	20.6	15
9	Th	13.6	22.5	0
10	Fr	15.4	23.6	3
11	Sa	15.3	24.3	0
12	Su	15.6	22	0
13	Mo	16.1	22.2	2.2
14	Tu	16	24	0.5
15	We	16.7	23.4	0
16	Th	17.3	23	0
17	Fr	18.5	22.7	1
18	Sa	17.9	23.5	0
19	Su	17	24.5	4.2
20	Mo	16.9	24.5	0.6
21	Tu	17.6	24.1	0.2
22	We	16.7	25	0
23	Th	17	25.2	0.4
24	Fr	17.6	24.5	0
25	Sa	18.3	26	0
26	Su	19.4	25.2	0.2
27	Mo	19.2	24.9	0
28	Tu	18.9	22.8	6.8
29	We	20.3	27.5	1.2
30	Th	19.8	26.9	1.0

Statistics for November 2017

Mean	16.73	23.6	
Lowest	13.2	20	0
Highest	20.3	27.5	15
Total			63.2

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



Note: Data may not have completed quality control

IN APPRECIATION....

Contributors to this issue of *Port Chatter*:

Stephen Alta, Colin Couper, Ross Debenham, Neil Fraser, Harold Gibson, Kevin Griffey, Neil Hansford, Ken Johnson, Laurie Nolan, Frank van Druten, Tony O'Donnell, Jenny Fitzsimons, John Reid, Lee Uebergang and Maureen Wheatley. Other photos by Stephen Alta, Ross Debenham, Jenny Fitzsimons, Neil Fraser, Neil Hansford, John Herret, and Tony O'Donnell. You too can become a contributor and you will be most welcome. See inside front cover.

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

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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)
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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 MEMBERS MEETINGS

TUESDAY - 14 DECEMBER 2018

AND

TUESDAY - 13 FEBRUARY 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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