

PORT CHATTER



DECEMBER 2018

MARINE RESCUE NSW PORT STEPHENS UNIT

"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally"



Wishing you a safe and happy Christmas!





MARINE RESCUE NSW – PORT STEPHENS UNIT

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

Location: Nelson Head, Nelson Bay, NSW

Email: base.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au

Phone: (02) 4981 3585

Fax: (02) 4984 1944

VOLUNTEERS SAVING LIVES ON THE WATER

UNIT APPOINTMENTS

Patrons: Kate Washington MP, State Member Port Stephens Meryl Swanson MP, Federal Member Paterson Stephen Bromhead LLM MP, State Member Myall Lakes The Hon. Dr David Gillespie MP, Federal Member Lyne The Hon. Bob Baldwin		Awards and Recognition Technical Services Protocol Officer Corporate Services Administration Officer Providore W.H. & S Officer Base Security Membership Rosters Comms Centre Services Building & Services Coordinator Supply Officer Data Base/Stats Admin Support Historian Trust Management Sub-Committee Chairman Deputy Chairman Treasurer Secretary Committee Port Stephens Historical Society Welfare / Liaison Wedding Events Co-ordinator: Tours	Iain Blackadder Lee Ryman Brian Richardson Peter Baldwin Robert Johnson Dieter Greiter Harold Gibson Colin Couper Jenny Fitzsimons Angus MacKenzie John P Smith Loris Webster Heather Haskett Peter Baldwin Julia Lynch Trevor Brighton Steve Harris Margaret Morrison Maureen Wheatley Erica Smith Paul Farnill Kevin Griffey John Reid Peter Merlino Ross Debenham Peter Fitzsimons Dennis Corr Harold Gibson Jenny Fitzsimons Lynn Gibson Vacant
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Welfare / Liaison Assistant Emergency Services Liaison	Harold Gibson Jenny Fitzsimons Colin Cahill		

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

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

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

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

Cover Photograph - Penelope Highland

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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Tuesday – \$18 Two for one schnitzel -

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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
orders a main meal. Children under 12
years - Limit 3 children to one adult.

Regular Entertainment

Trivia Nights - Trivia challenge
the last Tuesday of every month

Live Bands

Mens & Womens Bowls

Visitors welcome

Phone club for details

Social Darts

Friday Evenings at 7.30pm

ATM

Keno

TAB Room

Big Screen TV

Children's Playground

*Phone the club for our
courtesy bus details.*

UNIT COMMANDER'S REPORT

UNIT COMMANDER

Another year almost gone and Christmas/New Year fast approaching.

Although we generally experience quieter times in the Comms Centre and Boats during Winter and Spring there has been a consistent demand for our Operations leading up to the intensity of the holiday period. This quieter period gives us the opportunity to carry out training for new members and to reinforce our Standard Operating Procedures for experienced Radio Operators, Watch Officers, Coxswains and Boat Crew. This all requires a considerable commitment from everyone involved to ensure that the Boating public remain safe.



To meet our core function of *Saving Lives on the Water* we need to keep our two Boats functional and the Comms Centre open 24 hours a day. An enormous amount of work goes on behind the scenes to ensure that this happens. This includes our regular Boat Maintenance team at the Marina every Wednesday morning, our Rosters Officer and Duty Call Out Officers. Everyone a Volunteer helping to make our Waters safer.

To ensure that we comply with all regulations there is an Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) carried out on both of our Boats and our Radio Operations annually. We appreciate the effort that Members made to ensure that we successfully completed this year's ORI.

Recently, Marine Rescue held a Leadership Development course for Unit Commanders and Deputy Unit Commanders. This was an excellent opportunity for us to share experiences and knowledge with other Units within our Hunter/Central Coast Region. These events help cement the bond between neighbouring Units and assist with the co-ordination of multi-Unit training and incident response.

We encourage the visit of Community groups to visit our site and inspect the Historic Lighthouse Cottage, Museum and Tea Rooms. A common comment that we get from

visitors is how beautiful the grounds and buildings are maintained. Once again, it is the work of a small group of Volunteers who regularly spend time making sure that the site is kept immaculate. Thank you.

A new addition to the site is the installation of the replacement flag pole. This flag pole will be used on ceremonial occasions to fly the Australian flag and was proudly utilised for the first time on Remembrance Day.

With more detail further in this issue we were delighted to attend the launch of John "Stinker" Clarke's new books. "Stinker" joined us a few days later at our Monthly Unit Meeting to entertain, enlighten and continue with his long term support of our Unit. We wish him well with his new publications.

Also, further in this issue are details of our visit to the Westpac Helicopter Rescue maintenance centre in Broadmeadow. As another emergency service organisation we understand and support the amazing contribution they make to our Community.

Marine Rescue Port Stephens cannot exist without the financial support of the Community. In addition to Head Office funding we need to raise in excess of \$150,000 every year to remain functional. We are fortunate to have an active Fundraising Team and a dedicated group



of Members in our Gift Shop to help us meet this target. We also receive support from a small group of supporters who have recognised the important contribution we make to the Community and have financially assisted us. To our Team and those Supporters we say thank you.

The last two months has also had its sad moments with the passing of one of our Port Stephens RVCP Commanders, Arthur Heiler, as well as Lake Macquarie Unit Commander and previous Regional Co-ordinator,

(Continued on page 7)

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UNIT COMMANDER, DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER, CORPORATE SERVICES & DONATION BOATS

(Continued from page 5)

Neil Grieves and former Regional Trainer, Leigh Carmichael.

We pass our condolences to family and friends of these members.

Finally, I wish everyone a Happy and Safe Christmas and holiday period. It will be busy for us ensuring that all people on the water get home safely as well.

I wish everyone a successful 2019.

Colin Foote
"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally"

DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER

As we draw close to end of 2018 I wish to thank all those Port Stephens Marine Rescue members who fill positions on the executive committee, rescue vessels, comms centre, gift shop and administration who give up their time voluntarily to keep our mission of 'saving lives on the water' 24/7. I would like to especially thank the local community for supporting our activities.

Also, thanks go to those members who volunteer in the museum, ground maintenance and the sub-committee

that maintain the care, control and management of the Nelson Head Lighthouse Reserve. The many visitors who come to enjoy and preserve for future generations.

Wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2019.

Peter Merlino



ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

The Corporate Services team continues to make sure that the support wheels keep turning in the background while other Members perform their duties. There is quite a lot of necessary paperwork that goes backward and forward between the Unit and HO; complete, accurate and on time.

As well, the Maintenance team of Trevor Brighton, Steve Harris and our electrician, Doug Craike have ensured that new lights were either installed over the ramp to the member's car park or replaced on the toilet block roof. And there is the refurbished screen door into the Comms Centre. Well done.

Margaret and Drew Morrison have done a great job considering there is a delay with MRNSW Stores for uniforms. Bits and pieces have been scrounged from spare stock while awaiting the large backorder to arrive. They are at Nelson Head most Sunday mornings if you want to drop in with any uniform issues.

A warm welcome to the new members who have completed the recent Induction.

- Andy Bakewell
- Clare Brown
- Gary Carey
- Julie Carey
- Jennifer Dunn
- David Frame
- Glenyce Lumsden
- Luaan Poggi
- Peter Robertson
- Vincent Walsh
- Marion Weatherburn

These new members represent a large cross section of the community and we are delighted to have their diverse previous experiences available to the Unit.

Finally, the Unit's best wishes go to team member Heather Haskett for a quick recovery and return to assisting Membership guru Loris Webster.

To all Members and supporters, have a Merry Christmas and a successful 2019 from the Corporate Services crew.

Colin Couper

DONATION BOATS

The end of the year is fast approaching, firstly I would like to thank all the generous visitors and friends in the community who regularly contribute to the running of Marine Rescue Port Stephens Unit.

Welcome Krystina and Will who are helping collect the contributions from the Donation Boats. Also thank you to the rest of the team.



I will be investigating putting boats into more venues in the New Year. If anyone knows of any venue that would be suitable for a Donation Boat please let me know.

I'd like to take this time to wish you all A wonderful Christmas and all the best for 2019.

Stephen Alta

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VISIT TO WESTPAC BROADMEADOW AND TRIVIA NIGHT

MARINE RESCUE PORT STEPHENS VISITS WESTPAC HELICOPTER ENGINEERING BASE AT BROADMEADOW



About 50 members and friends visited the Westpac Rescue Helicopter maintenance facility at Broadmeadow.

Recently retired Chief Pilot Graeme Nickisson told us about the work conducted there, and related a few of the harrowing rescues that he has been involved in over the 38 years he has been with the service. In particular he showed us a video of the rescue of two spear fishermen who drifted away from their "mother ship" and found themselves out of contact with help, nine nautical miles

from shore off Fingal Head in northern NSW.

What made it so intriguing was that they filmed their frightening experience with a go-pro, including the enormous Great White Sharks circling them. Their frustration at seeing the Westpac helicopter searching in the wrong area was greatly relieved when a second helicopter going to the search area just happened to see them after three hours in the water. Lucky guys.

We also had a tour through the service hangar where one of the helicopters was getting a thorough 12,000-hour service. They are such intricate machines that the service takes a full 3 weeks.



Great day for our members and good to see another Emergency Service's operations. Many thanks to

Graeme Nickisson and all the crew at the Broadmeadow service centre.

Tony O'Donnell

TRIVIA NIGHT

Our Mission is Saving Lives at Sea which is why so many people join Marine Rescue Port Stephens. Another reason is comradeship. One of our very popular social events is the annual Trivia Night.

Over 60 people had a fabulous evening pitting the collective skill of their team against the rest. Although not a fund raiser, over \$500 was raised for the unit.

Tony O'Donnell



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GIFT SHOP AND FUNDRAISING



The Gift Shop has been very busy with new stock arriving

for the Christmas and January holidays.

I would like to thank all the volunteers in the Gift Shop for the support given to Marine Rescue gift Shop, and wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Sandra Scheuber

FUNDRAISING OFFICER

It has been a very busy couple of months for the Fund-raising team with two Bunnings BBQ's, a Nelsons Bay Bowling Club Raffle, two Salamander Shopping Centre days and a Sacred Tree market day.

The work of all the Volunteers who have supported these events is greatly appreciated.

A vital part of the work of the Fund-raising team is the promotional of Unit activities to the boating and general public. The feedback we are receiving shows that our promotional messages are reaching people as we experience more vessels joining our Marine Radio Service and indeed new members volunteering to train in the Comms Centre and on our Rescue Vessels. Over the Christmas/New Year period, we will have the opportunity to reach out to the many visitors and holiday makers who will coming to stay.



The lucky winner of the dramatic Rodd Owen photograph, Mr and Mrs Bill McKinnon and UC Colin Foote

The photo art work generously donated by Stinker Clarke and Rodd Owen was recently raffled with a great result. With tickets sold mainly in the Comms Centre and the Gift

Shop shows that with a little effort, visitors to the Nelson Head site will support our work.

Our other promotional Raffle that we have been running for the last three months will be drawn at the Unit Christmas party on 12 December. It also is doing very well and now has tickets in the Comms Centre and Gift Shop to boost more sales.

A raffle for the January/February period is being organised for the Comms Centre and Gift Shop.

We have also introduced a sign on book at all our promotional days so please make sure you sign the book with your hours. This helps the Unit track the many volunteer hours needed to operate our Unit.



John Clarke drawing the winner with UC Colin Foote and photographer Rodd Owen.

We look forward to some of the new members joining our fund raising team and again to everyone a big thank you and look forward to working with you next year.

The Fundraising events for the holiday period are below.
If you can help at any of these events, you will be very welcome.

Peter Young

Fund Raising and Promotional Events Christmas and New Year Period

Date	Event	Place	Time
Friday 7 December	Sacred Tree Markets	Nelson Bay Foreshore	4pm to 9pm
Friday 28 December	Seafood Raffles	Nelson Bay Bowling Club	4.45pm to 7pm
Sunday 13 January	BBQ	Bunnings Taylors Beach	8am to 12.30pm and 12.30pm to 5pm
Friday 18 January	Sacred Tree Markets	Nelson Bay Foreshore	4pm to 9pm
Saturday 26 January	Australia Day event	Fly Point	9am to 12noon 12noon to 3pm



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COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND NELSON HEAD TRUST

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

John “Stinker” Clarke is a well-known Radio and TV personality, author, public speaker journalist and a famous fishing commentator in the Hunter, Port Stephens and Central Coast regions (and beyond). His love of the Port Stephens area and its history gives rise to so many spellbinding tales he tells and publishes.

He is also a long-time supporter of Marine Rescue Port Stephens. On 8 and 9 November, John launched his latest two books – ***The Outer Light*** and the other, ***Clarabelle***. To coincide with the book launch John along with renown photographer **Rodd Owen** donated a framed dramatic seascape photograph for Marine



Rescue Port Stephens to raffle.

At his Soldiers Point Bowling Club launch, Stinker along with Rodd Owen drew our raffle with the winner being Mr Bill McKinnon from Dutchies Beach.

A big thank you to Stinker and Rodd for their generous support of our work.

Stinker's books are available from our Gift Shop and you can visit www.owenphoto.com.au to see more of Rodd's work.

Iain Blackadder



TRUST CHAIRMAN

On 1 November the Trust installed and raised the new Inner Lighthouse flag pole replacing the old wooden one that was no longer safe to use on the Reserve. Shirley Clark was on hand to test the reliability of the structure by raising the Australian Flag

for the first time. Special thanks to Harold Gibson and the team for all their work over the months arranging, ordering and installing the flag pole.

Peter Allen Senior Property Management Officer with the Crown Lands Department visited the Reserve on 18 October to personally thank the Trust and its Team for managing and caring for the area. He described the Reserve as in a magnificent condition and that we were



amongst a few of the best maintained Trusts in the Hunter.

The Trust will formally thank all of its friends that do all the maintenance, lawns, gardens weddings, Museum attendants as well as the Management Committee at a small celebration on 13 December in the grounds.

On behalf of the Trust I would like to thank all the volunteers, friends, Port Stephens Historical Society, the Tea Rooms staff and wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a healthy, happy and enjoyable 2019.

Kevin Griffey



Lighthouse Weddings



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

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

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

Wedding Co-Ordinator

Mobile: 0491 135 102

E mail: weddings.portstephens@gmail.com.

LIGHTHOUSE WEDDINGS



Left: 27th September,
Cathryn and David Page
from Raymond Terrace

Right: 30th September,
Yee Fong and James
Bevis from Sydney



Right: 20th October, Eden and Jake
Neale from Lemon Tree Passage

Below: 3rd November, Maddie
and Matt Lindsay from
Newcastle



Right: 10th November, Kelly and
Matt Denney from Sydney



Below: 26 October, Leigh and Ben
Thompson from Salamander Bay



Once again, It is lovely to share these special photos of our Brides and Grooms for you all to see. We, the Wedding Team, have had a great year being part of their special day. Three Weddings are all that's left for 2018 and bookings for 2019 have nearly reached our quota. Thanks again to our wonderful Wedding Team for all their help in braving, wind, rain, heat and parking issues, and through it all, still enjoy the best of fun being part of these special days.

We wish you all a Safe, Happy and Merry Christmas

Jenny Fitzsimons
Wedding Co-Ordinator

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OPERATIONS

OPERATIONS OFFICER

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

Our Unit Commander often reminds us that we are about having a 24/7 Radio Base and two Rescue Vessels able to respond if tasked out on the water. All our other functions are supporting those requirements.

On TV there are many shows about Emergency Services such as Police, Ambulance, Surf Life Saving etc. As I watch them (sad about my viewing habits maybe) I often think that this is just like Marine Rescue Port Stephens – maybe on a different scale.

Our radio base and boat crews are all well trained and do their jobs very well as evidenced by the results of their work. Often in my role I am required to listen to voice recordings of incidents we have handled and I have to say I am proud of the work our people do. Whenever a Watchkeeper or Radio Officer takes a radio or phone call they never know if this is the call which will save a life.

The same applies to our Duty Callout Officers – is the call they take after midnight (or any time really) the call which will end up saving a life?

Our boat crews respond to calls for assistance out on the water – they just never know if this will be a routine type of assistance or one which will end up saving a life. Of course routine assists if not attended to may very well end up in disaster.

We just never know.

Although we don't fight fires or feel the heat of a fire we are, at night, part of the RFS organisation for the Hunter Valley. Again, our Watchkeeper takes a call from NSWFF&R (000) and starts a process which sees RFS units dispatched to serve the community.

before starting their voyage and of course more work for our boats out on the water.

Our Watchkeepers have managed calls for assistance ranging from a May Day to vessels breaking away from moorings.

The tasks our boats have completed recently range from a May Day response from inside waters of Port Stephens,

MARINE INCIDENTS MANAGED BY OUR COMMS CENTRE

Statistical Type	Activity YTD
Marine Incidents Managed	201
Our Boats were Tasked	74 Times
RFS Incidents Managed - Comms	954
Total Incidents Managed	1155



Let's have a look at the results of our work up to the end of October 2018.

I wonder if one day, will there be a TV show about Marine Rescue.

Over the past few weeks of October and November we are certainly getting busier. Many more boats logging on

rescues from Broughton Island to fuel problems in many locations etc.

For those of our readers who enjoy boating in the waters around Port Stephens, from our experience here are a few tips to enhance that enjoyment.

- Have your motor serviced regularly in-line with the manufacturer's recommendations
- Have your battery checked after the winter lay-up. Not only are the volts correct but is the battery capable of starting your boat several times in a short period.
- Is the fuel in your tank old?
- Know the weather forecast and ensure you and your boat can handle the expected conditions (and beyond)

(Continued on page 19)



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OPERATIONS... AND BOATS OFFICER

(Continued from page 17)

- Know your radio is working
- Carry the required safety equipment
- Check your outboard tank regularly for water and contamination.
- Log-on with Marine Rescue so you can be certain somebody knows where you are going and when you expect to return.

A big thankyou to all our Radio Base and Boat crews for the



Night Training at Shoal Bay

service you have given throughout the year – you are amazing people and volunteers.

From our operations group, we would like to wish all our members and readers a very Happy Christmas. Stay safe on the roads and out on the water.

Tony O'Donnell



BOATS OFFICER

Keeping two 'hi-tech' rescue vessels ship shape and survey compliant is a complex and arduous task. Thanks to our team of dedicated maintenance volunteers, boat crews are able to rely on equipment that will support them in anything an operational situation may throw at them.



Any member interested in becoming involved in boat maintenance on a Wednesday morning should contact BoatOfficer.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au

Experience is not required but a keen interest in boats and boating will be an advantage.

Both vessels passed the Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) in October. This inspection is carried out by the Regional Operations Manager (ROM) who is usually accompanied by an independent qualified observer. The only defect noted was a missing radar reflector on PS31 and a casualty of the storm damage earlier in the year. This was replaced within 24 hours by the maintenance crew.

Since my last report the engine problems on PS30 have re-emerged. This is a difficult to diagnose intermittent fault. Our service agents and the manufacturer are



working hard to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.

This week should see the replacement of the barrier net (DockPro) in the dry dock used by PS30. Repairs to the pump switching arrangements on the dock will be completed at the same time.

This is a significant expense but maintenance of a dry dock facility for PS30 is cost effective. It removes the need for periodic slipping cleaning and

antifouling of the hull and assists in obtaining optimum performance and fuel efficiency.

John Thompson (PS31) continues to give good service. Her twin Yanmar diesel engines were given their 800-hour service early in November. Minor 'wear and tear' issues are dealt with routinely as they occur.

The new dock facilities continue to prove their worth. We now have a WiFi access point in the 'shed' which can be used by the boat systems to communicate directly with Raymarine to check for software upgrades etc. So far, the 'off grid' solar power system has been well up to the task of maintaining boat batteries in peak condition and running dock pumps as well as lighting and power for the shed. Use of the stand by generator has been limited to short maintenance runs only.

Barney Pinney



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TRAINING BRINGS REWARDS & SUPPORT TO RFS

TRAINING BRINGS REWARDS

Obtaining a Marine Rescue NSW Operational Rating requires serious dedication and time by our Volunteers, both as Trainees and Trainers.

Dedication, because as a Trainee you may be moved out of your regular comfort zone, as you acquire new skills and knowledge, both on the job and in a classroom environment.

Time, because you have chosen to commit to a Volunteer Emergency Service.

Add to this, **Subject Matter** that for some is totally new terminology, as may be the use of a computer for the first time.



Marine Rescue Port Stephens congratulates all Trainees and their Trainers in every Unit who have achieved an Operational Rating this year and in particular, the following people from our Unit, Brian Bibbing - Coxswain, Michael Duggan - Leading Crew, Ian Jack - Crew, Ian Peacock and Peter Baldwin - Watch Officer and Paul Buckley, Nigel Eves, Sarah Charters and Ben van der Wijngaart - Marine Radio Operators.

The role of Trainers in Units is vital and the group of Experienced Members who willing work behind the scene helping Trainees achieve their Ratings is greatly appreciated.

Well done everyone.

This training pays a handsome dividend in both the Comms Centre and Rescue Vessels when incidents occur. So far this year, the MR Port Stephens Comms Centre has received or made over 25,000 radio and telephone calls, logged on in excess of 3,500 vessels and assisted 155 vessels in distress, with more than half of these distressed vessels requiring assistance from one of our Rescue Vessels.

Iain Blackadder

SUPPORT TO RFS

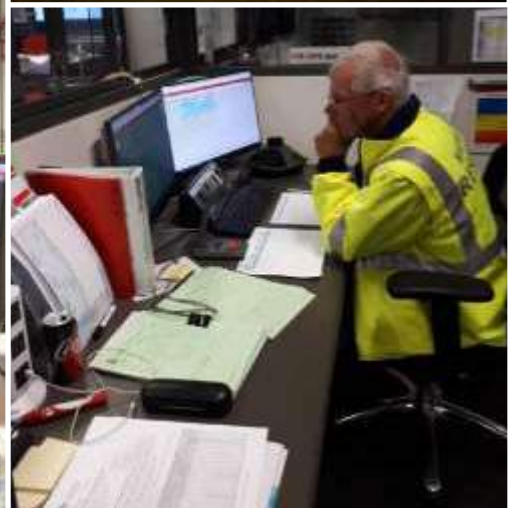
Marine Rescue Port Stephens Watch Officers are fully trained as RFS radio officers with our Comms Centre providing after hours support to both Lower Hunter and Hunter Valley Districts.

Recently, we were asked by Lower Hunter RFS to supply a number of radio operators to assist at their control centre in East Maitland on Sunday night, 19 August. The RFS communications staff had been working huge hours while their Units had been fighting the fires in Salt Ash/Lemon Tree Passage - and other areas such as Fingal Bay. They needed a rest and support.

Four of our Watchkeepers spent Sunday night 6pm to 6 am helping out at the EOC at East Maitland.

The whole community is so thankful for the efforts of the RFS and other emergency services such as the Police, RFS Units from out of the area, NSW F&R etc. during this major fire.

Iain Blackadder





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MR JIM WRIGHT, DIRECTOR MARINE RESCUE NSW, FIREWORKS AND VISITORS

JIM WRIGHT DIRECTOR VISIT

At our October Monthly Unit meeting, we hosted Mr Jim Wright, Director Marine Rescue NSW who provided the meeting with details of his involvement with Marine rescue and also happenings at Board level.

Mr Wright is the Regional Director for our Hunter Region. During his visit, he met with the Unit Executive who provided details of our activities and some of the



challenges facing the Unit.

During the Monthly Meeting, he presented a **National Medal to Brian Carroll** in recognition of his service as a volunteer to Marine Rescue.

Iain Blackadder

FIREWORKS

Marine Rescue Port Stephens assisted a local celebration by towing a fireworks barge from Little Beach to off Nelson Bay Marina. Under the Aquatic Licence our vessel (PS30) also protected the 200 metre exclusion



safety zone. A good training exercise for us. We trust the celebration went off well - it certainly did on the water.

Tony O'Donnell

VISITORS TO THE COMMS CENTRE

John Doyle (*Rampaging Roy Slaven*) paid a visit to Marine Rescue Port Stephens. Nice to have interesting and interested people visit us. Jenni Flyer, Roy Dorward and Laurie Nolan (pictured below with John Doyle) entertained our guests and explained our Comms Centre and Rescue Vessel operations. We trust John and his wife enjoyed the visit.



Also, visiting the Comms Centre recently were members of the Prospect Caravan Club from Sydney.



A very successful morning which drew over 30 visitors to the Boats and Base.

Thank you to Duty Skipper Laurie Nolan and Crew Ian Jack for giving up their morning to assist and explain our Rescue Vessel operations.

Iain Blackadder

PORT STEPHENS DOLPHIN CENSUS

DOLPHIN CENSUS

A Marine Rescue Port Stephens crew participated in the 18th Annual Port Stephens Community Dolphin Census, 29th July 2018 conducted by the Marine Parks Association.

With poor weather resulting in the cancellation of the June event, organisers were nervously watching forecasts ahead of the count. As it turned out, we couldn't have had better conditions for sightings; the winds stayed down, much of the bay was glassed out and a cloudy sky helped to diffuse light, ultimately allowing for great visibility across the bay. 103 dolphins were sighted throughout the morning, including some well known



individuals. This included residents such as *Favourite* and her offspring who were seen travelling between Nelson Head and Fly Point. *Sunny* and her 7 month old were seen near the Anchorage Marina (this pair of marina hoppers are also frequently sighted inside Nelson Bay marina). *Scream* and her calf were spotted near Pindimar, while *Cutfin*, *Splitfin* and *PS320* were all sighted fishing with their calves along the shoreline outside North Arm Cove. The largest pod encountered, a group of approximately 18 dolphins (including the Bay's largest alliance of 9 males and a mum and calf) was sighted from a vessel leaving Tilligerry Creek just before the census period, this group dispersed as they left the creek. Members of this pod were later observed by additional vessels, foraging and tracking past Bull Island/Mud Point.

The census count of 103 dolphins is higher than the

average count of 90 achieved over the 18-year census period (with a range of 12 dolphins in 2011 to 194 dolphins in 2004). This was an excellent outcome for this year's event, however the organisers do not believe that it is reflective of any greater trends in population health. Higher participation and site coverage than recent years and good weather likely influenced the result. 18 of 50 occupied shore sites recorded sightings during the census period and 8 of 15 vessels also recorded positive sightings. 15 sites recorded a common sighting (same dolphin/s seen by more than 1 location), with 28 dolphins seen by those respective locations. These sightings were considered when consolidating results (131 positive sightings - 28 common sightings= 103 dolphins).

The voluntary census is invaluable because it is the

longest running community dolphin count in Australia, it helps to form a set of baseline data that directly supports dolphin conservation and studies conducted by research institutes. The value of the census goes beyond the number of dolphins sighted each year as the information collected through the day helps shape our understanding of dolphin distribution and their movements throughout the Port.

Thank you to the crew who assisted for your time and ongoing support and the Unit looks forward to continuing this important work again during next year's census event.

Iain Blackadder

HUON AQUACULTURE GRANT & JOHN CLARKE ARTICLE

HUON AQUALTURE GRANT

Below is a communication received from Emma Tanchik, Communications Coordinator, Huon Aquaculture

At Huon Aquaculture, we believe that being part of the community brings with it a responsibility to do things that will help keep it safe, keep it strong, keep it vibrant and keep us all

connected to one another. That is why we developed

Huon's Helping Hand Community Grants Program.

Each year we allocate \$40k of funds to supporting projects taking place in the communities where we operate.

We hold two round of grants per year and in our latest round, we were delighted to receive several applications from the Port Stephens community. The Panel who assessed the grants approved two of them within the community, including one from Marine Rescue NSW Port Stephens Unit to purchase first aid kits to keep on their vessels.

Huon Aquaculture Co-Founder, Frances Bender established the grants program and said that Marine Rescue's application ticked all the right boxes.

"As a company we have a big focus on safety, especially safety on-water so whenever we receive an application

that ticks those boxes we have a very happy Grants panel!

"I can't overstate enough how important a role Marine Rescue NSW plays. As waterway users we both have a responsibility to come to the aid of others who need assistance, and to foster positive behaviour in our shared waterways.

"I'm very pleased that we have the opportunity to support Marine Rescue NSW and I would like to thank them for taking the time to submit an application and I wish them all the best," concluded Frances.

Kind Regards

Emma Tanchik | Communications Coordinator
Huon Aquaculture Group Limited



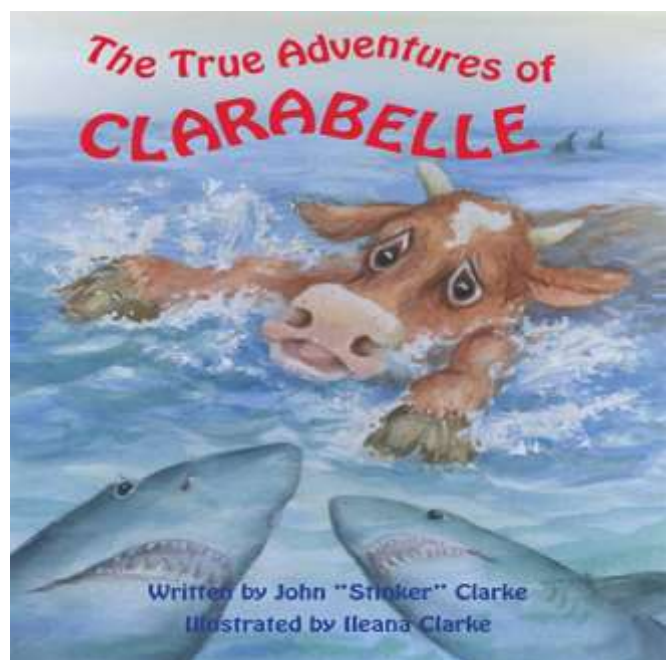
Peter and Frances Bender Co-founders, Huon Aquaculture

CLARABELLE

"I love listening to and telling stories and I have heard and told many. Never have I heard a story like Clarabelle. I was introduced to the Clarabelle saga on Broughton Island nearly 40 years ago when a group of old fishermen were discussing odd events that have occurred on the island over the years. Huge seas that washed huts into the swirling ocean, sharks, whales, seals and sinking ships. Every story seemed to be far more difficult to believe than the previous tale. The last story told was about a cow that found her way to the island. No one could top that so they all went to bed."

John "Stinker" Clarke

To find out more about the cow that found her way to Broughton Island visit <http://www.stinker.com.au/>



VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM AND TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR HEILER

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Over the weekend of 16 to 18 November, I was very fortunate to be able to attend the Volunteer Leadership Program provided by the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience.

The program brought together around 18 Volunteers from Marine Rescue NSW, Victorian Police, SES Victoria, NSW RFS, Victorian Country Fire Service, Victorian Ambulance and The Red Cross and provided insights into different personality types as well as different types of Leaders.

Participants engaged in a variety of activities, that taught us, not only about being an effective leader but also what type of leader you are.

Overall, the program provided a wonderful insight into Leadership and some useful tools to take back to our Volunteer Sectors.

I'd like to thank my Unit and Marine Rescue NSW for



supporting my attendance. I'd encourage anyone who is given the opportunity to attend to do so. It was an amazing and rewarding experience.

Rebecca Harband

Tribute to Arthur Heiler

On 10 October, highly respected volunteer worker Arthur Heiler died suddenly at his Fingal Bay home. He was 79.

Arthur retired to Fingal Bay in 1995 and from this time maintained his strong enthusiasm for community work in several areas including secretary of the Port Stephens sister city committee, chairman of a local volunteer park



committee and a director of the Fingal Bay Sporting Club.

He joined the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol in 1999, where his experience as the General Manager of Bankstown City Council for which he was awarded the Public Service Medal was put to good use. He spent many years as crew on the rescue vessels *Girralong* and

Danial Thain and was awarded the RVCP Albatross Medal, the highest award for Gallantry, for his crew work on the Police Boat attempting to rescue the skipper on the vessel *Trade Winds* foundering in heavy seas. His attention to detail and his ability to communicate effectively with politicians and public servants was instrumental in the Division being successful in obtaining substantial funding for the high cost command centre and many other critical projects he was involved with. He became the Divisional Commander after his stint as Operations Officer and later the Senior Manager for the Central Coast and Hunter Units. His efforts were recognised in 2005 when he was awarded the Commissioner's Commendation for Service. He was highly regarded by all Units where he was happy to share his skills and knowledge, always with a smile and good humour.

Arthur was a wonderful community minded man, was awarded the NSW State Government Community Service Medal and worked tirelessly, together with his wife Margaret, to make our waterways a much safer place and our community a great place to live in.

In 2015, Arthur was awarded the National Medal for service to RVCP and Marine Rescue NSW. One of nature's gentlemen and he will be sorely missed by us all.

Peter Phillipson ESM

WELFARE/PROTOCOL OFFICER

WELFARE AND PROTOCOL OFFICER

Marian Chappel: Welcome home Marian from your longer than expected stay in hospital. Marian has been in hospital for a full knee replacement, however a few complications during her recovery, slowed her rehabilitation program and added an extra week to her hospital stay. Marian reports all is well now and she is looking forward to coming back on duty at the base as soon as possible. Well done Marian we have all been thinking of you and the ladies in the gift shop have been a great support to you.

Steve Alta: Although Steve is well, he has been a very busy and caring son looking after his mother who has had many hospital stays over the past month. Steve has been coming off radio shifts and then on to his other caring duties for transporting his mother to the many medical appointments that she has for treatment. Steve, well done you are a very caring devoted son and I am sure your Mum appreciates all of your sincere devotion. Please pass on our Get Well message from us all.

Neil Hansford has had more than his share of eye operations over the past four weeks. Just when Neil thought he was on the road to recovery, he was rushed off to hospital to have more surgery performed on that troublesome eye. From all of your friends at Port Stephens Marine Rescue, we are thinking of you Neil and hope that all is on the mend now.

Netta Anderson has also been in hospital recently with a very severe chest infection. Netta is now home recovering, however she is still far from well and recovery is slow. Netta, all at the base are thinking of you and we are here to assist in any way possible. Get well soon our dear member and friend.

Loris Webster another of our hard working members, reports that she is fine, however she has been very busy these past few months looking after her husband Richard, who has been put to the test with some very trying medical conditions. Between all the work that Loris performs at the base and then on to caring for Richard, she always has that pleasant smile on her face when she greets you. Loris and Richard, again we are here for you both if we can assist in any way.

All the best with your treatment Richard and hope the outcome is a good one for you.

Eryl Thomas 'Capt. Seaweed' reports that his ongoing trips to hospital every day will continue for a few more weeks. He has a good positive attitude and still likes to tell a few stories about rescues he was involved in over the past 20+ years with his involvement with Port Stephens unit.

Members, if you have a spare minute or two, please give him a call he would love to have a chat with any of you.

CROSSED THE BAR

The Port Stephens unit was deeply shocked recently with the sudden passing of former commanding officer **Arthur**

Heiler.

Arthur was the unit commander of the then Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol from 2003 to 2005. When Arthur stood down from the UC position he was then given an appointment to be the 'Regional Manager' for the Northern Divisions.

Arthur was also a very dedicated crew member and was involved in many search and rescue operations, along with his base radio duties he was involved in both day and night shifts. Port Stephens unit presented a full uniformed guard of honour at the funeral service for Arthur, with a very large turn out of both serving and past serving members.

To Arthur's wife Margaret and daughter Julie and family, may I, on behalf of our unit commander, Colin Foote, deputy unit commander Peter Merlino and executive officers and members of Marine Rescue Port Stephens unit convey our sincere condolences to you with the very sad passing of Arthur.

Mary Gutry the units condolences has also been passed to Mary and her husband with the very sad news of the passing of their son recently. Mary and family, may I also pass on to you the units sincere condolences in these very hard times with the passing of your son who lost his battle with cancer.

All members are here for you Mary. I believe the Ladies have been a tower of strength in supporting you in time of need, it is also very nice to have you back at the base doing your shifts in the shop and allowing us all to comfort you when required.

Graeme Abberton may I also pass on to you the units condolences with the passing of your father recently. Graeme all of the members and your friends at Marine Rescue Port Stephens, would like you and your family to know that we are thinking of you all and we are here to support you in any way that we can, in these very difficult and trying times.

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.

RFS LIAISON HUNTER VALLEY AND LOWER HUNTER

RFS LIASON HUNTER VALLEY

Considering the time of year, it has been reasonably quiet in the Hunter Valley district, even though the bushfire season has been brought forward a month. Periods of rain have helped to keep away the dry conditions that the RFS dreads but already there have been hot days with total fire bans, even before summer arrives.

Early November saw two fires, the 154 ha Soprano fire in the Wollemi NP and the 20 ha Box Gap fire near Putty. No property was under threat.

Also in November was a B Double truck fire outside Muswellbrook and in October a hay shed fire, both with MRPS as Firecom heavily involved. The shed fire needed six brigades to be called out. Both types of fires have unique methods required to extinguish them, especially the latter where hay bales need to be pulled apart.

A new fire station for the Mangoola brigade at Denman was opened in November, complete with a brand new Cat 6 fire tanker and presentations of long service medals totalling 900 years for members of the District. One

member received a 60 year medal !

A reminder that if you are in a potential bushfire area,



have your Bush Fire Survival Plan up to date. Know how to prepare your property for the up coming summer and what to do if threatened by fire. To ensure you have the latest plan, visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/bush-fire-survival-plan which will cover all that you will need to know should such a danger eventuate.

Prepare. Act. Survive.

Colin Couper



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

Month		Bush	Grass	Structure	CFR	MVA	Car	AFA	Other	Total
Sep-18	HVRFS	1	1	0	1	3	0	1	2	9
Oct-18	HVRFS	0	0	1	0	5	2	3	3	14
Sep-18	LHRFS	34	0	7	8	14	10	2	9	84
Oct-18	LHRFS	14	0	2	8	10	13	5	11	63
Total for 2018		253	67	46	76	139	137	45	187	946

RFS LIAISON LOWER HUNTER

As you can see the statistics were considerably less in October, no doubt due to the rain that some of the area received during the month. Most of our work is carried out by the night shifts, with some nights being very busy, whilst other shifts you can have nothing at all for the night. With this in mind I would like to "congratulate" Lee Ryman for equaling Mick Duggan's record of eleven incidents in an eleven hour shift. I had ten one eleven hour night shift, and it really can get a bit hairy at times.



Lochinvar station.

urgency, as there may well be persons at risk in the building. In all cases we should attempt to get the brigades paged in three minutes but it doesn't hurt if we get them out quicker. If the location is not listed in the location book ring the Duty Officer to find out who should be paged. Earlier this month we had a house fire at Luskintyre, on Thursday night, followed by a chapel fire at Lochinvar very early Saturday morning. Lochinvar and Greta brigades were called out to both these incidents on two consecutive nights. A good effort you would no doubt agree.

Ross Debenham



Greta station.

STRUCTURAL FIRES: Whereas all incidents should be treated with the greatest urgency, if possible structural fires should be treated with extra

OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER UNIT MEETINGS



Presentations by Jim Wright Marine Rescue NSW, Hunter Central Coast Director at October Unit Meeting.

Clockwise from above: Shirley Clarke presents Gift Shop Cheque, Jim Wright, Dieter Grieter and UC Colin Foote; Paul Buckley; Brian Bibbing; Krystina Winslow; Brian Carrol.



November Unit Meeting: Left; Shirley Clark presents Gift Shop Cheque and Right; UC Colin Foote thanks 'Stinker' Clarke for his presentation to the meeting.



BIRDS AROUND THE BASE

BIRDS AROUND THE BASE

Australasian Gannet (Morus serrator)

The Australasian Gannet is a large sea bird that is found along the coast and seas out to the continental shelf throughout southern and south-eastern Australia, and New Zealand. It is frequently seen searching and diving for prey around the entrance to Port Stephens and the adjacent islands.



It is 84-91 cm in length, has a wingspan of 160-170 cm and weighs around 2350 g. Adult birds have dominantly white plumage with black primary flight feathers on the wings, and broad black tips to secondary flight feathers. The tail has four



black central rectrices. The head is buff-yellow. The stout bill is pale blue-grey with black base and cutting edges. The eyes are pale bluish-white, surrounded by deeper blue rims. The legs and webbed feet are black, with pale greenish toes. Both sexes are similar.

Juvenile birds have mottled brown plumage in their first year, dark above and light below. The head is an intermediate mottled grey, with a dark bill. The birds gradually acquire more white in subsequent seasons until they reach maturity after five years. The Australasian Gannet gives loud, raucous calls at colonies and when feeding in groups at sea.

Australasian Gannets are expert fishers, at times forming small flocks. Birds display powerful and agile flight, soaring 10 m or more above the surface of the water, herding fish into dense shoals, then fold their wings back and dive steeply into the water at high speed to catch prey. Air sacs in the body cushion the impact with the sea. A nictitating membrane covers the eyes involuntarily

and the nostrils are occluded to keep water out.

The prey are grasped with the aid of small backward-pointing serrations along the edges of the bill. A bird will only stay under the water for around ten seconds, but the prey is normally swallowed before it reaches the surface. Gannets feed on fish that school near the surface including pilchards, anchovies, jack mackerel and squid. They regularly follow trawlers looking for discarded bycatch and debris.

In Australia, the Australasian Gannet breeds in dense colonies on offshore islands around Victoria and Tasmania. The young do not reach breeding maturity until about six or seven years. Gannets breed between October and May. Pairs may remain together for several seasons. They



perform elaborate greeting rituals at the nest, stretching their bills and necks skywards and gently tapping bills together. Nests are on the ground, usually in small but dense colonies.



Gannet can become aggressive against neighbours when defending their nest-site. Nests are around one metre apart and are made from grass and seaweed formed into a rough mound up to 250 mm high. Nest materials are held together by droppings. The female lays a single egg, 78 x 48 mm. Incubation is by both parents for 44-47 days with the egg grasped in their webbed feet. The chick has whitish skin covered with white down. It is fed by both adults and fledges 93-105 days after hatching. After the nesting period, the adult gannets remain in the vicinity of the colony while young birds disperse, covering more than 2,500 km in a week.

The Australasian Gannet has been persecuted during the first half of the 20th century, but numbers have been slowly increasing since 1950, although some colonies have disappeared and others have decreased in size. The species is not currently threatened in spite of reduced breeding range.

**Neil Fraser
Twitcher**

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

SOCIAL EVENTS

The visit in October to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter maintenance facility at Broadmeadow was very well attended and hugely successful. The bus trip was very



joyous and a great way to ensure that everyone arrived at the venue at the same time with the least fuss.

Our favourite Westpac Chief Pilot (just retired) Graeme Nickisson welcomed us with morning tea and some more intriguing tales of his adventures. He then showed us a video of a couple of spear fisherman whose boat had drifted away from them and left them 9 miles off the coast with little chance of swimming to safety. They had a GoPro camera and shot the whole adventure, including the circling sharks, until the Westpac Helicopter arrived. They could see the helicopter but unfortunately the helicopter couldn't see them - it was searching for them some distance away. Frustration and fear started setting in – all on camera! It made for really riveting viewing. However, a second helicopter which had been tasked to the search area was just arriving, and just by chance flew directly overhead the two guys in the water. Luckily the crew managed to spot

them and commence the difficult job of winching them on board. How lucky were they!!!

Our next social event is the Xmas Party on Wednesday 12 December at Nelson Bay Bowling Club. We have reached our maximum number so unfortunately some members have missed out – better book earlier next year. For those on the waiting list, keep your phones handy just in case someone drops out. We are all looking forward to a great night of festivities and tasty food.

We will have numerous prizes for best-dressed (Xmas theme), funniest joke, best excuse for not dressing up, and/or anything else that takes the organisers' fancy.



We are also running a Secret Santa.... For those that want to participate, bring along a small gift to the value of MAXIMUM \$15. On entry, put your gift on the table and we'll note your name. During the evening we'll draw the names from a hat and you get to make a choice from the gifts on the table. It's all a bit of fun, but please don't feel that you need to bring a gift if you don't want to – it's entirely voluntary (just like being a member of Marine Rescue!!).

Laurie Nolan and Frank van Druten



MRPS Social Committee 2018 schedule

Month	Date	Event	Comments
DECEMBER	Wednesday 12 December	Xmas Dinner	- In the Crows Nest room, at Nelson Bay Bowling Club
Year 2018 Public School Holidays			
	Summer Holidays	24 December 2018	28 January 2019



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.

DECEMBER		John ALMGREN	21	Valerie BENNET	2	Alan JOHNSON	1
Helen PETERSON	17	Yvonne ALMGREN	21	Zoe EVES	2	Anthony BATCHLER	1
Paul FARNILL	12	Ken ROSS-SAMPSON	20	Nigel EVES	2	Mark KELLY	1
Roy DORWARD	10	Barney PINNEY	6	Julia LYNCH	1	Donna CLARRIS	1
Sandra SCHEUBER	7	Peter EDWARDS	4	Joanne PEARCE	1	Jan SAMI	1
Esme HULL	7	Ian PEACOCK	4	Mike COWELL	1	Ian JAMES	1
Netta ANDERSON	6	Paul BUCKLEY	3	Rod MILHAM	1	Rosemary ADAMS	1
Brian BIBBING	3	Debbie BUCKLEY	3	Kylie CARSON	1	Geoff ADAMS	1
John REID	3	Geoff CLARK	3	Wallace EWENS	1	Bob MONTGOMERY	1
		Judith JONES	3	Barb STACK	1		
JANUARY		Sarah CHARTERS	2	Fred HARVEY	1		
Kev LANYON	25	Ross CAMBOURN	2	Angela O'DEA	1		

Happy Birthday

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

DECEMBER	Alan JOHNSON	Jordan COGGAN	Rena GARDINER
Brian CARROLL	Angus MACKENZIE		Andrew MACLACHLAN
Helen PETERSON	Gary WILLIAMS	JANUARY	Judith JONES
Maggie DOMINEY	Sue FREEMAN	Yvonne ALMGREN	Garry McKITTRICK
Lorraine SHAW	Wallace EWENS	Shirley CLARK	Sandra SCHEUBER
Mike SMITH	Heather PERRY-COMLEY	John COOK	Michael DUGGAN
Peter BALDWIN	Angela O'DEA	Eryl THOMAS	Matt DARBY
John HOWSON	Mick MILTON	Bruce LUNNON	Harriet BAILEY-HEWITT
Andrew MORRISON	Sarah CHARTERS	Ian DRUMMOND	Tom MILLER



Keeping your music alive

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PORT STEPHENS WEATHER

Nelson Bay, NSW - October 2018				
Date	Day	Temps		Rain mm
		Min	Max	
		°C	°C	
1	Mo	12	21.5	3.2
2	Tu	12	22.6	0
3	We	15.1	22.5	0
4	Th	16.4	20	0
5	Fr	13.2	17.9	22
6	Sa	13	20	21.6
7	Su	10	17.3	7
8	Mo	13.5	22.5	6.2
9	Tu	14	22.6	0
10	We		20.3	0.4
11	Th	12.5	17	23.8
12	Fr	13.4	20.1	0.1
13	Sa	13.9	21.5	1.8
14	Su	11.1	23.1	2.3
15	Mo	15.4	21.5	2.6
16	Tu	18.5	21.7	1.8
17	We	16.5	21.1	0.1
18	Th	18.8	21.3	5.1
19	Fr	16.3	23.9	0
20	Sa	15.7	23.8	0.1
21	Su	17.5	18.8	12
22	Mo	15.5	23.9	0.8
23	Tu	15.9	24.5	0.2
24	We	15.2	20.7	0.1
25	Th	15.8	23.3	0
26	Fr	15.8	22.2	0.1
27	Sa	16	23.6	0
28	Su	17	18.9	0
29	Mo	15	22.4	0
30	Tu	15	24	0
31	We	16.2	25.8	0

Statistics for October 2018

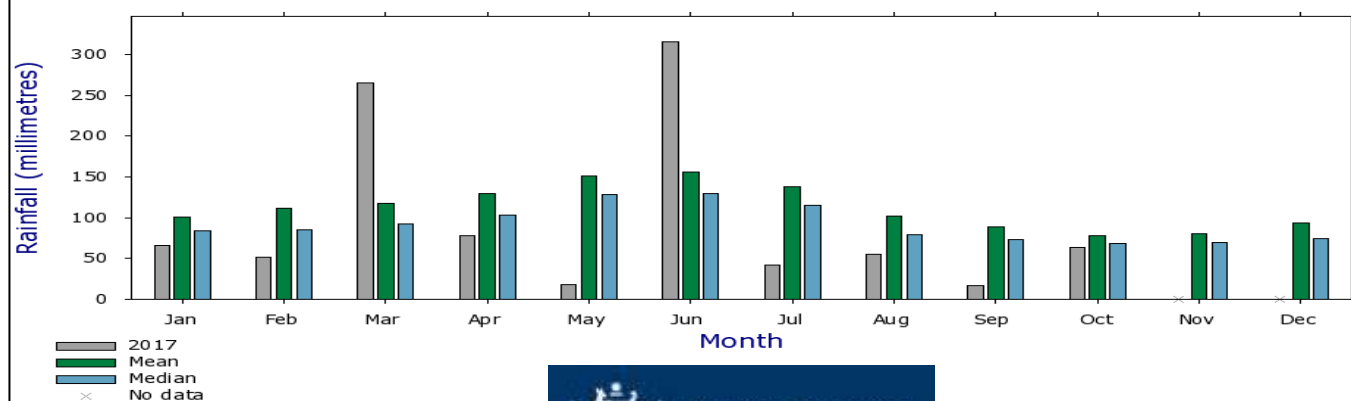
Mean	14.9	21.6	
Lowest	10	17	0
Highest	18.8	25.8	26
Total			111.3

Nelson Bay, NSW - November 2018				
Date	Day	Temps		Rain mm
		Min	Max	
		°C	°C	
1	Th	19.5	26.2	0
2	Fr	19.2	27.5	0
3	Sa	20.5	34.5	0
4	Su	18.5		0
5	Mo	17.2	26	0
6	Tu	19.4	28	0.3
7	We	20.5	24.8	0.5
8	Th	10.6	19	21
9	Fr	10.5	22.8	9.9
10	Sa	14.8	22.5	0
11	Su	14.9	24.7	4
12	Mo	15.9	25.3	0
13	Tu	16.3	24.5	0
14	We		25.2	0
15	Th	18	25.1	0
16	Fr	15.4	20.8	7.6
17	Sa	15	22.6	0.4
18	Su	15.4	22.5	0.1
19	Mo	16.3	25.2	0.2
20	Tu	15.2	24.2	0
21	We	16.5	23.2	0
22	Th	15.7	26.7	1.4
23	Fr	16.8	23.6	0
24	Sa	15.8	24	0
25	Su	15.8	25	0.2
26	Mo	16	22.2	0
27	Tu	16.1	25.1	0.2
28	We	18.5	25	4.7
29	Th	10.5	21	25.8
30	Fr	16		1.6

Statistics for November 2018

Mean	16.2	24.5	
Lowest	10.5	19	0
Highest	20.5	34.5	25.8
Total			77.9

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*:

Stephen Alta, Iain Blackadder, Colin Couper, Ross Debenham, Frank van Druten, Jenny Fitzsimons, Colin Foote, Neil Fraser, Harold Gibson, Rebecca Harland, Ken Johnson, Peter Merlino, Laurie Nolan, Tony O'Donnell, Peter Philipson, John Reid, Maureen Wheatley and Peter Young. Other photos by Stephen Alta, Ross Debenham, and Tony O'Donnell. You too can become a contributor and you will be most welcome. See inside front cover.

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

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Medical	Chemists	Salamander Centre Pharmacy
		Shoal Bay Pharmacy
		Terry White Chemmart Pharmacy, Nelson Bay
Funeral Services		France Family Funerals
Maritime	Marina	D'Albora Marina and businesses
		Soldiers Point Marina
	Boating Sales and Repairs	Nelson Bay Outboard Services
	Fishing Supplies	Duff's Salamander Bait & Tackle (at Coles Express)
Motor Vehicles	Service Stations/Tyres	Fingal Bay Service Station and Tyres
Windscreen Repairs		Novus Autoglass Shop
Real Estate		Century 21 Paradise Waters, Nelson Bay
Restaurants and Cafes		Rock Lobster Seafood – D'Albora Marinas
		Inner Light Tea Rooms, Nelson Head
Radio Station		Port Stephens FM 100.9



NEXT UNIT MEETING

TUESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2019

*All Members
Welcome*

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

Important information on operational matters will be discussed.

Food and refreshments provided.

MARINE RESCUE NSW PORT STEPHENS RESCUE VESSELS CURRENTLY IN SERVICE

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

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

PORT STEPHENS RESCUE VESSEL *PORT STEPHENS 31*

JOHN THOMPSON



Specifications

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

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

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

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

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



Specifications:

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

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

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

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



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R Marine Port Stephens	02 4984 2355	Subway	02 4984 4277
Lets Go Adventures	02 4981 4331	The Wood Oven Pizza	02 4984 4800
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