

# PORT CHATTER



FEBRUARY 2019

## MARINE RESCUE NSW PORT STEPHENS UNIT

*"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally"*





## MARINE RESCUE NSW – PORT STEPHENS UNIT

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## VOLUNTEERS SAVING LIVES ON THE WATER

### UNIT APPOINTMENTS

<b>Patrons:</b> Kate Washington MP, State Member Port Stephens Meryl Swanson MP, Federal Member Paterson Stephen Bromhead LLM MP, State Member Myall Lakes The Hon. Dr David Gillespie MP, Federal Member Lyne The Hon. Bob Baldwin		<b>Awards and Recognition</b> <b>Technical Services</b>  <b>Protocol Officer</b> <b>Corporate Services</b> <b>Administration Officer</b> Providore W.H. & S Officer Base Security Membership  Rosters Comms Centre Services Building & Services Coordinator  Supply Officer Data Base/Stats Admin Support Historian  <b>Trust Management Sub-Committee</b> Chairman Deputy Chairman Treasurer Secretary Committee Port Stephens Historical Society Welfare / Liaison Wedding Events Co-ordinator:  Tours	<b>Iain Blackadder</b> Lee Ryman Brian Richardson Peter Baldwin Robert Johnson Dieter Greiter  <b>Harold Gibson</b>  <b>Colin Couper</b> 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
<b>Unit Commander</b> <b>Deputy Unit Commander</b> Gift Shop Manager Events Coordinator Social Committee: Lisa Lodding, Heather Perry-Comley  <b>Operations</b> <b>Operations Officer</b> Assistant Operations Officer BOM Contact Duty Callout Officers Angus MacKenzie, Peter Baldwin, Communications Centre Manager Radio Club Manager Ashes Scattering Coordinator Rescue Vessels Manager Assistant Manager Chief Engineer R.F.S. Liaison Lower Hunter Hunter Valley Coxswains Sue Freeman Barney Pinney Brian Bibbing	<b>Colin Foote</b> <b>Peter Merlino</b> Sandra Scheuber Dee Gilliland  <b>Tony O'Donnell</b> Barney Pinney Trevor Moxham  Neil Fraser, Frank Van Druten Laurie Nolan Elizabeth Francis Harold Gibson Barney Pinney Vacant Bill Haskell Ross Debenham Colin Couper Robert Johnson Laurie Nolan Brian Bibbing	The <i>Port Chatter</i> is the bi-monthly newsletter of Marine Rescue NSW, Port Stephens unit. It is available free to all members of the unit, its advertisers, sponsors, and other interested members of the community.  <b>Contributions</b> are most welcome from all members, advertisers, sponsors or other interested community members. They should be accompanied by the author's name, address and phone number, and can be emailed to the editor at <a href="mailto:editor.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au">editor.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au</a> . Contributions are subject to review by the Executive Committee prior to publishing.  <b>Advertising</b> enquiries are welcomed. Contact the editor at <a href="mailto:editor.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au">editor.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au</a> for more information.  <b>Sponsors</b> can make <b>tax-deductible</b> donations to Marine Rescue NSW Port Stephens. All sponsorships will be acknowledged in <i>Port Chatter</i> if requested.  <b>Cover Photograph</b> - Steve Alta	
<b>Finance</b> <b>Treasurer</b> Grants Officer  <b>Community Relations</b> <b>Community Relations Officer</b> Public Relations/Social Media Editor Port Chatter Asst Editor Port Chatter Fund Raising Officer Unit Photographer Webmaster  <b>Unit Training</b> <b>Unit Training Officer</b> Training Systems Officer Training Systems Officer Rescue Vessels Training Officer Course Presenters: Paul Buckley, Colin Couper Peter Dentrinos, Neil Fraser, Trevor Moxham, Barney Pinney, David Rogers Provisional Member Support Colin Cahill, Angela Tilling, Krystyna Winslow	<b>Peter Merlino</b> John Reid  <b>Iain Blackadder</b> Iain Blackadder Penelope Highland Frank van Druten Peter Young Geoff Clark Peter Baldwin  <b>Gary Williams</b> Angela O'Dea Jan Sami Brian Bibbing  <b>Harold Gibson</b> Jenny Fitzsimons  <b>Colin Cahill</b>		
<b>Welfare / Liaison</b> Assistant  <b>Emergency Services Liaison</b>	<b>Harold Gibson</b> Jenny Fitzsimons  <b>Colin Cahill</b>		

## 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 and Hunter Valley districts
- A Marine Radio Safety (MRS) service – Boat Register
- A checkpoint and radio coverage for recreational vessels transiting up and down the coastline adjacent to Port Stephens.
- Weather readings and local conditions observations and
- Current Bureau of Meteorology weather forecasts and tidal information. (These can be obtained by contacting the Comms Centre by phone or radio and are also offered in regular radio skeds).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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## UNIT COMMANDER'S REPORT

### UNIT COMMANDER

A warm welcome to 2019 to all Marine Rescue Port Stephens members and supporters.

Over the holiday period we have once again managed to provide a safe environment for all boats in our region achieving the Marine Rescue goal of "Saving Lives on Open and Closed Waters"

We continued to operate our Comms Centre 24 hours a day with an additional person rostered from 5-00am to support the normally increased Comms Centre traffic. With introduction of the new *Marine Rescue* App we have seen more Mobile Phone Log Ons and in time as people become more familiar with the use of the App this will reduce the amount of time currently spent on the Radios.

Our Rescue Vessels have already been busy having been tasked many times for assistance in January, as far afield as Broughton Island and the FAD. Interestingly we are still responding to more calls for assistance inside the Bay than out through the Heads.

Disappointingly, a number of these incidents have involved boats running out of fuel. But

This will be Project Managed and funded by the Telco's who have their transmission towers on the roof of our building. The project will require us to relocate the radio operations to the Command Centre for up to 2 weeks. We will provide more details in the near future on the impact of this project. We will be operating our normal marine and RFS radio services during the construction period.

Our Floating Dock at the Marina will require major renovation/replacement this year and we are currently



examining the estimated costs for this project. We have already received a substantial donation toward the project and will be applying for suitable grants to finance the project..

The regular introduction of New Members is essential for the ongoing operation of our Unit. We have conducted the first Induction session for new members in January and a Training program commences in February for this group and those new Members who joined us at the end of last year.

that's what we are here for and we attend willingly.

Our role with Lower Hunter and Hunter Valley RFS after hours Comms continues and we have had a visit from Paul Best and Ken Hepplewhite from Hunter Valley expressing their thanks and appreciation for our involvement.

We have also had visits from our Patrons, local Members of Parliament Kate Washington and Meryl Swanson congratulating our Unit on the role we play in the boating community.

### **2019 will be another busy year for us.**

We are expecting a Comms Centre structural reinforcement to take place in the first two weeks of May.

There has been a change of the Unit Training Officer role with Gary Williams taking on the role from Brian Bibbing. Gary will move on to the Executive in this role. I want to thank Brian for his contribution to our Training and wish him well with his ongoing commitment as Boat Training Officer and Coxswain.

To the more than 200 members who keep Marine Rescue Port Stephens functioning either in the Comms Centre, Boats or in the numerous support activities I wish you well for 2019 and thank you for your involvement.

To all of our Community supporters, thank you.

**Colin Foote**

*"Volunteers Saving Lives on the Water"*



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

### DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER

It certainly has been a busy start to 2019 with our Comms Centre handling a large volume of radio and telephone calls and daily Vessel Log Ons. Once again our Boat Crews have been called out 24/7 to a number of assists.

The Gift Shop members are also busy this time of year raising much needed funds for the unit.

The Cottage attendants have seen the influx of holiday makers with many compliments on how well the grounds are maintained by our Volunteers.

Our thanks to Laurie and Deb Nolan, Frank and Deb Van Druten who have held a range of exciting events over the last few years in their role as Social Committee.

We welcome Lisa Lodding and Heather Perry-Comley who have taken over the social calendar for 2019. Lisa and Heather will soon let us know about upcoming events.

Our fund raising team are in full swing over the peak season with Bunnings BBQ's, Nelson Bay Bowling Club, Salamander Bay Shopping Centre, Sacred Tree Markets and many more. Thanks to existing and new members who have joined the fund raising team and special thanks to Peter



*The Fund Raising Team at the Sacred Tree Markets*

Young and Colleen Malloy for the administration and background preparation for organising raffle prizes, sites, and the onerous task of peeling and chopping 10 kgs of onions for a Bunnings BBQ !!

Loris Webster with support from Heather Haskett has commenced the 2019 new member recruitment intake with the first Information night and Induction held in January. We welcome these new members and wish them well in their journey with Marine Rescue

We welcome our new Unit Training Officer, Gary Williams. Gary has a wide range of experience in Training and will join the Executive Committee.

Our thanks to Brian Bibbling for his past role as Unit Training Officer. Brian will focus now on Boat Training and his role as Coxswain.

With John Reid's assistance as Grants Officer we have been successful recently with grant applications from Huon Agriculture and from our Patron, Meryl Swanson, Federal Member for Paterson, under the Stronger Communities Grant.

I'm looking forward to 2019 and providing support to all our members

with the exciting challenges the year will bring.

**Peter Merlino**



### ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Even with the busy holiday season, Corporate Services still needs to keep the wheels turning.

The cracked window in the Comms Centre has been replaced. The first service of all air conditioner units was carried out in December under a new maintenance schedule. Thanks Trevor.

The first Information Night for new Members was conducted on 14 January with the Induction on 29 January. Thanks Loris and Heather.

Finally, a shipment of uniforms arrived late December and 29 members were contacted to pick up their garments. Thanks Marg and Drew.

Failed lights have been replaced in the Comms Centre and a faulty power outlet on the picket fence used for weddings has been isolated. Thanks Doug.

And of course all shifts have been filled. Thanks Pete

and all the volunteers who put their hands up for extra shifts.

The filing cabinets have been emptied of old papers. Thanks Erica.

Forms have been re-ordered and replaced and the stationary store re-stocked. Thanks Julia.

A new vacuum cleaner has been purchased (the roller brush for the original one was found eventually but after the new one was purchased. The older one is now in the Command Centre).

Yep. The beat goes on ...

**Colin Couper**

### DONATION BOATS

Due to the closure of the Salamander Bay Newsagent at Wanda Beach shops, we have moved this donation boat to

the Nelson Bay Newsagent on Magnus Street. The Donation boats continue to bring in much needed revenue for the Unit.

**Stephen Alta**



*Jenni Fryer receiving her MRO epaulets from UC Colin Foote*



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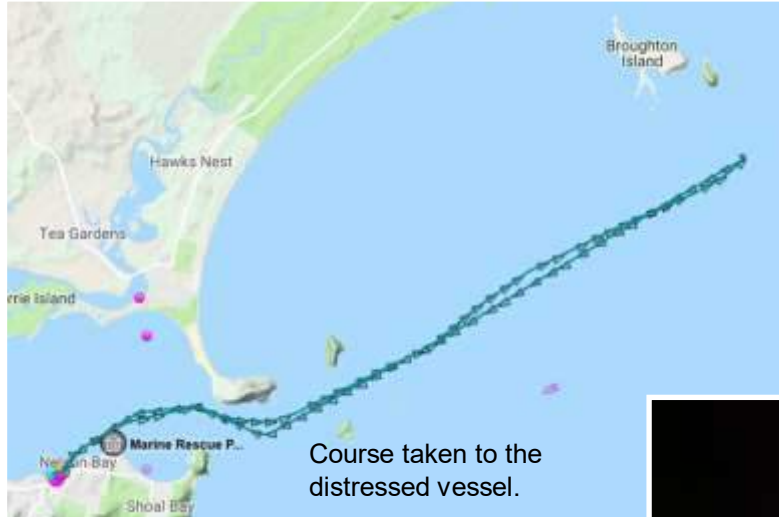
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## LONE SAILOR ASSIST, KELLY AND MATT WEDDING

On Wednesday night, 19 December 2018 at 8 PM, our night shift Watchkeeper received a call from a lone sailor who was sailing down the coast from norther NSW. The sailor was exhausted and in unfamiliar and somewhat dangerous waters off Broughton Island. With a large storm cell in the area a decision was taken not to try and enter Esmeralda Cove on Broughton but continue on to Port Stephens. Our Watchkeeper was also one of our



boat Skippers and was able to offer experienced advice to the sailor.

The lone sailor decided to anchor off Broughton Island and await assistance. Port Stephens 31 was tasked by Marine Area Command to guide the vessel back into port.

Soon after our Rescue Vessel left the dock a massive storm hit with visibility cut to a few metres. Very challenging for our Skipper and crew. The storm passed over in about 25 minutes.

On arrival at the scene PS31 asked the distressed vessel to raise the anchor. This proved to be a very difficult task for the exhausted sailor as the winching action was extremely slow and appeared ineffective. One of our crew went aboard to help.

Eventually the anchor was freed and the distressed vessel was readied for the trip back to Port Stephens with our crew person taking the helm. It was a slow (5 knots) journey back to safe waters.

When back in port, PS31 rafted the yacht and placed it on an emergency mooring. Our sailor friend now safe, could get some sleep.

Congratulations to our Watchkeeper, Skipper, navigator and crew for completing this task. A little different to the normal (whatever normal is).

Our volunteer crew logged off at 2 AM for a few hours' sleep before work the next day.

***Tony O'Donnell***



## KELLY AND MATT WEDDING

Marine Rescue Port Stephens is about people - our members and those we serve on the water.

was a very special day for one of our Boat Crew and Watchkeepers when Matt married his beautiful bride, Kelly. What was also special is that they took their vows in the grounds of the Inner Light where our Coms Centre is situated.

Kelly and Matt, all at Marine Rescue extend our congratulations and wish you both a long and happy life together.

***Tony O'Donnell***





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## GIFT SHOP AND FUNDRAISING



Happy New Year to all our fellow Marine Rescue Volunteers and their families. The products in our Gift shop have been fast-moving throughout December and January. The volunteers have been called upon to top up shifts wherever needed. We all look forward to meeting our customers both local and visitors to the area, as this makes our time in the Gift Shop interesting and worthwhile.

**Sandra Scheuber**



### FUNDRAISING OFFICER

Following the success of our recent fundraising raffles and the generous support of BCF Taylors Beach, we have commenced selling tickets in a new raffle – a Glide V-Series Fishing Kayak - valued at \$649.00

Tickets are available from the Comms Centre and the Gift Shop and at all our Promotional Days. Ticket sales have been strong as it's a great prize.

We continue to enjoy the support of the Nelson Bay Bowling Club by assisting with the Friday Night Raffles. We now have dates for 2019

Each volunteer Crew are trying to beat the record for ticket sales and it's become a real competition to become the A team!



Our attendance at the Sacred Tree Markets is proving to be very successful with a lot of interest from the public. Our main focus has been on seeking new volunteer members and to promote MRS membership.

Over the New year period, the Unit was active at local boat ramps speaking with our local and visiting boating community.

The many volunteers who freely and generously give their time to support these events have all indicated how they enjoy helping out and see the benefits to the Unit. Keep at eye on the Member's Website and the

Comms Centre Notice board for details of upcoming events so you too can come along and support our activities.

**Peter Young**

### STRONGER COMMUNITIES GRANT.

On 30 January, our Patron Meryl Swanson, Member for Paterson, visited the Unit to present a Stronger Communities Grant.

The grant for \$2500 will be matched by the Unit to install a communication link between the Unit's new Dock facility and the Radio Base atop of Nelson Head.

The link will enable better communications particularly for boat crews about to undertake operations to assist a vessel in distress.

Marine Rescue Port Stephens would also like to acknowledge the support of the NSW Dept of Industry-Crown Lands for their support with this project.

Ms Swanson indicated she was so proud to visit our new dock facility and praised the work undertaken by a dedicated band of volunteers. She thanks the Unit for our

service to the Port Stephens region in helping to keep the more boating visitors safe during their time in the area.

**Iain Blackadder**



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## COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND NELSON HEAD TRUST

### COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Marine Rescue Port Stephens recently hosted a visit by Patron, Member for Port Stephens, Kate Washington and Shadow Minister for Emergency Services and Member for Fairfield, Guy Zangari.

Mr Zangari was in Port Stephens for a family holiday break and welcomed the opportunity to meet with the volunteers from Marine Rescue.

"With so many visitors enjoying our waterways, it's a busy time of the year for Port Stephens and I wanted Guy to see first hand the challenges faced by our Marine Rescue Unit." said Ms Washington.

During the visit, Mr Zangari experienced a demonstration

of the capabilities of the Unit's 2 Rescue Vessels and the operations of the Comms Centre located on Nelson Head.

"The Port Stephens boating community is well serviced by this dedicated group of volunteers." Said Mr Zangari.

"They raise significant amounts of money through raffles, sausage sizzles and the like to fund their operations, so their efforts are extraordinary."

Mr Zangari added that the Nelson Head Reserve is a credit to the Unit and well worth a visit to take in the magnificent views of the Bay.



**Iain Blackadder**

### TRUST CHAIRMAN

The Trust hopes you had a wonderful Christmas and this year is kind to you all.

The 2018/2019 Christmas holiday season was another busy year for the Lighthouse with numerous visitors driving or walking up Lighthouse Road for one of the best views in the world. It's always delightful to hear the gasps of delight as people walk around the corner of the building and see the manicured grounds, historical Lightkeepers

vehicles illegally parked on the road.

If you see a vehicle illegally parked on Lighthouse Road please contact the Ranger on 02 49880153.

If you have not seen the new landscaping between the wedding dais and Bunker, I would encourage you to have a look. Thanks to the great work of our volunteers and a local landscaper.

20 wedding ceremonies have been booked during 2019 and two for 2020. If you would like to help the team that sets up and puts away the wedding decorations and chairs, please contact Jenny Fitzsimons.

The Trust is continually planning on improvements to the Reserve as required by NSW Dept of Industry – Crown Lands.

**Kevin Griffey**



Cottage and the port entrance guarded by Tomaree and Yacaaba Mountains.

Unfortunately we had some illegally parked vehicles along Lighthouse Road despite the 'No Stopping' signs and yellow line. Council Rangers and Police issued infringement notices to the vehicles. However due to the numbers of visitors and vehicles to Port Stephens each day new





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## OPERATIONS

### OPERATIONS OFFICER

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

The **Vision** of Marine Rescue, both NSW and Port Stephens is **"Volunteers Savings Lives on the Water"**.

Let's have a look at our Vision. All our members and much of the general public are fully aware that Marine Rescue Port Stephens is staffed by Volunteers. It has been interesting talking to so many visitors at our Comms Centre over the holiday period and to see the look of dismay when we tell them the entire operation is run by unpaid volunteers.

One visitor from Sweden checked several times after we told him that he was viewing the work of unpaid people. He said it is amazing that people will give up their time over -night and even on Christmas Day. Well that is what we do. (In fairness, we know there are volunteer organisations in Sweden as well).



While crewing on the boats and talking with many visiting skippers, who are surprised to again find unpaid volunteers giving them assistance.

The first part of the Vision is satisfied – **we are volunteers.**

Now how best to show we are **saving lives on the water.** You will probably be aware of the advertisement which says *"from little things big things grow"*.

Little incidents on the water if left unattended could grow to a tragedy. For example, our Comms Centre may receive a call from a vessel off the coast with a flat battery. Ignoring such a call could over time and a change in the weather see a loss of life.

Our Comms Centre being open 24 hours per day and our boat crews being on call 24/7 allows us to respond quickly to even the simplest of situations.

With this in mind, following are some statistics from our operations in 2018. We think you will agree Marine Rescue Port Stephens fulfils the second part of the Vision – **"saving lives on the water"**

\* Marine Incidents vary widely in scope. Not all incidents require on-water assistance (e.g. a flare sighting which turns out to be a false alarm, a call for ambulance assistance at the dock etc.)

\*\* Marine Rescue can be tasked to assist on the water or that assistance can be delivered by the Water Police, RMS Maritime, Marine Rescue Lemon Tree Passage (our sister and very competent Unit in Port Stephens) etc.

We think you will agree that we deliver on our Vision - **Volunteers Saving lives on the Water.**

MARINE INCIDENTS MANAGED BY OUR COMMS CENTRE	
Category	Statistic
Marine Incidents Managed*	255
Our Boats were Tasked **	105 Times
Radio Calls Made/Received	15,900
Telephone Calls Made/Received	16,100

2019 has started and we certainly have been delivering the Vision in the first few weeks.

We continually strive to improve our operations. We follow the principles of Kaizen where improvements come in small steps. Learning from our experiences is the key to offering better service in the future.

I would like to thank all those who volunteered their time

in 2018 and especially over the holiday period. Every shift was staffed.

We wish the Port Stephens Water Police a safe year in 2019. We enjoy working for and with you (although you need to change your coffee brand!!).



Congratulations to Clint Browne on your promotion. Enjoy the Sydney traffic.

Also, we wish the Boating Safety Officer and other crew at RMS Maritime a safe year on the water as well.

Thanks to all those who raised funds and donated to our Unit. Without you we could not deliver on our Vision.

Finally, we trust our friends at RFS in the Hunter Valley, who we work closely with each night, will remain safe while carrying out the essential work you do

**Tony O'Donnell**



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## BOATS OFFICER

### BOATS OFFICER

As foreshadowed in my article for the December issue of Port Chatter, the net lining of the DockPro dry dock used by PS30 has now been replaced and is giving good



DockPro dry dock with new liner.

service. At the same time the supplier took the opportunity to complete some design upgrades to the facility. Pump and sensor locations have been modified to provide better all-round service. The sensors now work as they were designed to do and switch the pumps off automatically once the dock is dry.

Shore power connections for both vessels have been tidied up by the provision of bollards with hangers for the cables and connectors when not in use.

The intermittent fault on the port engine of PS30 has not reappeared for more than 20 hours of running time. Technically the fault still exists since no cause has yet been found for it. An out of water service of both motors to be completed this week may shed more light. Thanks again to MR Lemon Tree Passage for the loan of their trailer.

A fault in the thermal camera system (FLIR) on PS30 is being investigated and may affect the availability of that vessel for night operations until cleared.

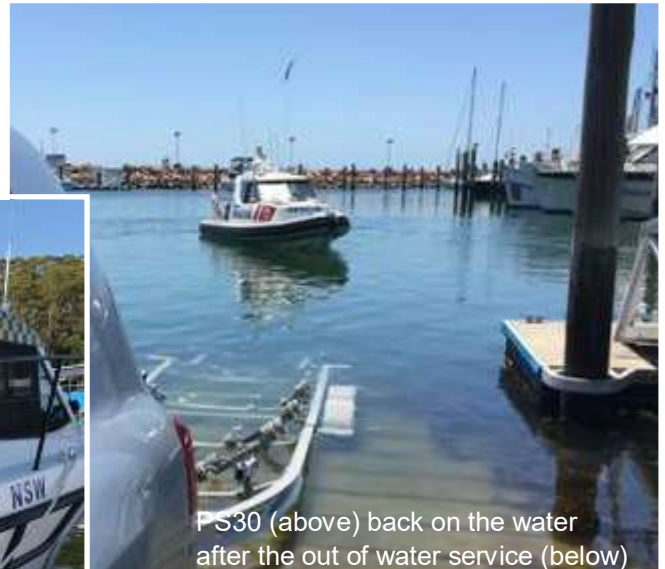
Under special regulations applying to emergency services. Marine Rescue NSW is required to carry out periodic 'in house' surveys of its vessels. These are carried out 'on water' by Regional Operations Managers in years when an out of water survey is not otherwise required by the regulations. PS30 underwent its Exemption 24 on water survey in January. After some close questioning about the port motor issue and the FLIR serviceability it passed without comment.

PS31 continues to give great service. An intermittent oil pressure warning on the starboard engine has been traced to a sensor issue and rectified.

We tend to underestimate the complexity of the electronic systems on both vessels simply because for most of the time they function extremely well. There are several levels of redundancy meaning that minor failures can be compensated for without any threat to our operational capabilities. All crew are on a constant learning curve coming to terms with how it all works. As with most things we do, communication is key. Proper documentation of faults and anomalies by the crew allows us to communicate accurately with our suppliers and service agents to achieve rapid diagnosis and if necessary, rectification.

Once again, a special thanks to our Wednesday maintenance crew. The largely preventative maintenance carried out by these members is key to maintaining both of our rescue vessels in prime condition and ready for anything.

**Barney Pinney**



PS30 (above) back on the water after the out of water service (below)



New bollards with hangers.



# RAFFLE

Tickets: \$2 each or 3 for \$5

Glide V-Series Fishing Kayak  
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## OPERATIONS

From Unit Commander Colin Foote

&

Marine Rescue Port Stephens

Unit Members

Thank you

To all the generous businesses who  
donated prizes to our Christmas Raffle.



### MIKE PIERPOINT'S NATIONAL MEDAL

After more than 15 years of service to Marine Rescue NSW and the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol, Mike Pierpoint has been honoured for his service with the presentation of a National Medal, an honour reserved for those who protect the community.

Before a gathering of his fellow members on our Dock, Mike was presented with his Medal by our Patron, Meryl Swanson, Member for Paterson.

Mike has served the Unit in both the Comms Centre as a Watch Officer and after a number of years as Chief Engineer for our rescue vessel gained his Coxswain qualification.

In congratulating Mike, Ms Swanson thanked Mike for his service and dedication to volunteering to the boating community of Port Stephens.

In accepting his award, Mike said 'I think it is difficult to image the scene at 3am raining, blowing hard and it's terribly black, that's when the training, the camaraderie all comes in play.'

Mike believes that it is beholden on all of us to try and do what we can to help our community.

**Iain Blackadder**





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



## NIGEL EVES MARINE RESCUE CREW AND DRY SEA PEN

### NIGEL EVES MARINE RESCUE CREW

Marine Rescue Port Stephens' final boat training session for 2018 was to carry out an assessment for one of our trainees for the rating of Marine Rescue Crew.

Nigel Eves has been training with the boat crew for more than 6 months and during that time has completed the required study streams and has demonstrated the required skills showing he was ready to be assessed.

One of our assessors, Michael Duggan (Cert IV) observed Nigel out on Rescue Vessel Port Stephens 31 going through the various requirements for this rating - including towing and rafting a distressed vessel, managing emergencies on the water, demonstrating a knowledge of collision regulations, working as a team member etc. After a full morning of operations on the water, Michael informed the Training Manager that Nigel had successfully performed in the Assessment and was ready to hold the rating of Marine Rescue Crew.



Ken Johnson, Mick Duggan, Nigel Eves and Brian Bibbing

Only a couple days later, Nigel was tasked for his first operation.

**Tony O'Donnell**

### DRY SEA PEN

Marine Rescue Port Stephens' rescue vessel PS30 (Codi K-II) when not in use sits in a dry sea pen. This pen allows salt water to be pumped out leaving the vessel dry. The liner of the pen is protected by heavy duty netting in which the boat sits.

After nearly eight years of service it became necessary to replace the netting. At a cost of



\$8,000, a new custom built net was fitted and at the same time the pumps and sensors were serviced.

Having the vessel dry when not in use saves on anti-fouling and maintenance costs.

Just another of the many costs associated with providing a volunteer service to the boating community.

**Tony O'Donnell**



## WELFARE

### WELFARE & PROTOCOL OFFICER

Hello to all members and their families. I hope that we are all off to a good start with the new year and all of our members on the sick list are recovering.

**Sue Lupton** is back home recovering from surgery she had recently, and hopefully will re-join all of her friends at the base when she feels that she is able too. Sue is quite a worker and it will take a lot to hold her back from her activities. All the best Sue with your recovery and look forward to your return when you are able to.

**Steve Chauncy** has also had a stay in hospital just before Christmas. Steve had an early Christmas present, a 'total knee replacement.' All well Steve reports, and wishes that he had the operation done years ago. All the best Steve.

**Marian Chappel** is also very pleased with her early Christmas present, of a new knee as well. Marian is back on deck at the base gift shop and is doing extremely well after her operation. Well done Marian and great to see you back on duty.

**Pam Smith** has had a very unexpected stay in two hospitals over the holiday break. Pam became very ill with a severe blood infection. Her first stay was at the local Tomaree hospital and then transferred to the John Hunter. I am able to report that Pam is back home under the care of her daughter and is making steady progress. All thinking of you Pam, get well soon from all of your friends at Marine Rescue.

**Elaine Cook** is waiting for her call to go into hospital to have major spinal surgery. Elaine reports that she is not looking forward to the hospital stay, however she is looking forward to the relief of the severe pain that she has been experiencing for some time. All the best Elaine, we are all thinking of you and hope that all goes well.

**John Olsen** husband of our very popular member Denise, has also had a stay in hospital. John has had an operation that will relieve a lot of pain that he has been experiencing in recent months. John reports all went well and he is back on the bowling green playing better than ever. Well done John, also to Denise, for all of her nursing skills looking after you.

**Netta Anderson** welcome back on deck after your recent illness and hospital stay. The ladies at the gift shop were all astounded to see you back on deck so soon. All the best Netta.

**Neil Hansford** one can only say that this member has certainly been through the mill with his eye operations. Neil reports that over the past 12 months he has had 18 doctors visits and numerous eye operations to correct his recent severe eye problems. However, after nearly going blind in one eye the latest operation has been very successful and his eye surgeon has given him a very good report. Good to see you back on duty for your radio watch shift recently. All the best Neil it certainly has been a worrying time for both yourself and wife Sue.

**Trevor Dowset** one of our long time serving members has decided 'due to ill health' to resign from the unit as he has sold his Salamander Bay home and is moving from the area to be close to his family.

Over the past 20+ years, Trevor has served on the units rescue vessels and completed many hours as a watchkeeper, both day and night. Trevor has also been known to have used his own vessel in emergency situations to assist others in distress. Trevor's response when called upon to assist a vessel in need was *"Always on duty and ready to assist"*.

Trevor was surprised recently when many of his long time serving Marine Rescue members and friends, along with their partners joined him for a farewell luncheon at the Soldiers Point Bowling Club. I believe that there was many a sea stories told around the table. However Trevor had the last laugh with a story about catching a giant snapper, out at his favourite reef. The size of this fish grew as the story was retold, that he had to release it back to the depths as he felt a compassion and respect for its age, plus he did not have a large enough fridge to put it in!!

All the best Trevor from all of us at Marine Rescue Port Stephens. We all hope that you are pleased with your move and a new start with new friends and interests.

**Jessica Lighton** - it does not seem to be that many years ago that this lovely young lady was the youngest member of the RVCP / Marine Rescue Port Stephens. She trained as an MRO and also achieved crew status on the rescue



vessels. When first joining the then Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol Port Stephens division, Jessica was the youngest member in all of the NSW divisions. At the time Jessica was still a student at Nelson Bay High School, but had her sights set on one day going to university to study law. Jessica has still been involved with Marine Rescue activities, however over the past few years has had to cut back as university studies have taken over.

I have been following Jessica's progress since she joined

*(Continued on page 23)*



## WELFARE AND AUSTRALI DAY AT FLY POINT

*(Continued from page 22)*

the RVCP. Her father Ron also a member and served as skipper for many years, was keen to have Jess involved in an activity outside school and study.

After six years full-time study, Jessica has finally completed her university education. She had graduated with a Bachelor of Arts with Distinction majoring in History and Politics followed by her Honours in Politics. She will now graduate with her Bachelor of Law with First Class Honours. In conjunction with her degree, Jessica has also completed her Diploma of Legal Practice and will be admitted to the Solicitors Roll at a ceremony in the Newcastle Supreme Court in February. Needless to say both parents, Margaret and Ron, are very proud.

After all of her hard work, it is gratifying to report that Jessica has scored a highly sought after graduate position with a law firm in Sydney that is considered to be one of the top six law firms and will start her new role in their Sydney offices in March.

Jessica, on behalf of our Unit Commander Colin Foote, Deputy Unit Commander Peter Merlino, the executive committee, fellow officers and members of Marine Rescue Port Stephens, congratulate you on an excellent outcome with your studies. We all send our best wishes to you for the beginning of a new and rewarding career.

**Bravo Zulu 'WELL DONE'**

**Harold Gibson**

### AUSTRALIA DAY – FLY POINT

On Australia Day, Marine Rescue Port Stephens set up a promotional stall at the major Nelson Bay event held at Fly Point overlooking the sparkling waters of Port Stephens.

The volunteer crew coped with the extreme heat to promote our unit by explaining our role in serving the boating community of Port Stephens.

A major up shot of this type of event is to promote the many opportunities, Marine Rescue provides to volunteer with a number of membership enquiry forms handed out and one new member completing the form on the spot.

MRS Radio Club is a significant and growing source of

revenue for the Unit and an ideal way for the boating community to support Marine Rescue knowing that help will be available when trouble occurs.

Several membership forms were taken on the day and we hope these are completed and returned

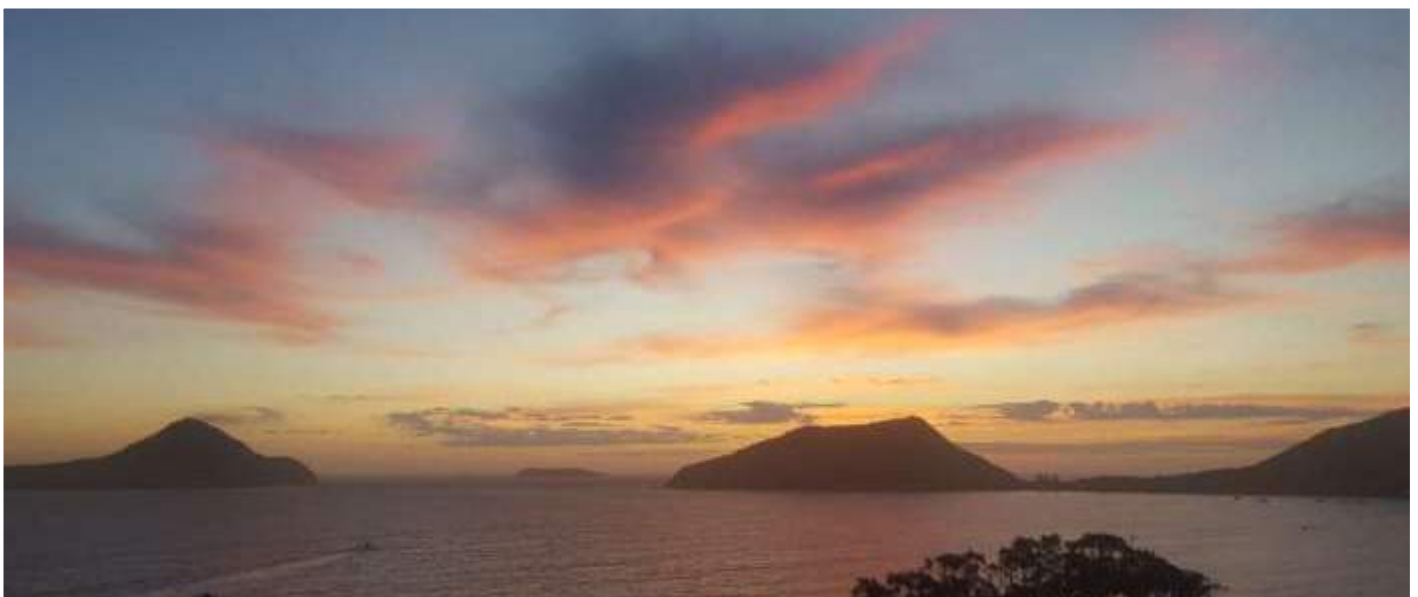
We ran a colouring competition for Aussie kids with a great prize of a fishing rod and tackle box.

Marine rescue Port Stephens would like to thank **BCF Taylors Beach** for their

generous donation.

This day would not have been possible without members giving up their time to support these events.

**Peter Young**



# Lighthouse Weddings



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Mobile: 0491 135 102

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



## LIGHTHOUSE WEDDINGS



17 November, Krystal and James Chandler of Raymond Terrace.



23 November, Kelly and Matt Darby of Corlette.



15 December, Emily and Ben Mathwin of Newcastle.

A happy New Year to all,  
Here are some photos of our last three weddings from 2018.

So far for 2019 we have 20 booked Weddings and two for 2020.

Won't take long to reach our quota!! To start our year off we have two in February and five in March.

We are also delighted to welcome Greg Walsh and Jenni Fryer to the Wedding Team, I know that we are going to have lots of laughs and their help and input will be greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank Peter Fitzsimons for the seven years of assistance he has given helping with the Weddings. Peter feels, that having reached the age of 80, it was time for him to hang up his hat.

**Jenny Fitzsimons**

**Wedding Co-Ordinator**



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

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

### Wednesday – \$12 Feed choice of :

200gm rump steak, sides and sauce

Small chicken schnitzel, sides and sauce

Battered whiting fillet, sides tartare & 1

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

Pasta of the day and side salads

### Thursday – Family night Kids Eat Free

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

## Regular Entertainment

Trivia Nights - Trivia challenge  
the last Tuesday of every month

### Live Bands

## Mens & Womens Bowls

Visitors welcome

Phone club for details

## Social Darts

Friday Evenings at 7.30pm

ATM

Keno

TAB Room

Big Screen TV

Children's Playground

*Phone the club for our  
courtesy bus details.*



## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

### COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER

Our Unit is located in one of the most picturesque locations in NSW and as a result we are fortunate to have a lot of visitors to the area.

Young Endeavour was a gift from the United Kingdom to the Government and people of Australia to mark the Bicentenary in 1988.

As Australia's sail training flagship, Young Endeavour participates in major events in Australia and around the world and is a frequent visitor to our waters.



Young Endeavour

Wes Oswin, Manager Marine Search and Rescue for Emergency Management Victoria (EMV). His reason for visiting was to inspect the layout of PS31, a Steber 38. EMV have purchased a number of Steber 38 vessels for Search and Rescue work



Wes Oswin with Laurie Nolan on PS31

in Victoria with the 1st to be delivered in 2019. It was a privilege to open our vessel for Mr. Oswin to inspect and then to demonstrate its capabilities on the water.

Our Radio Base Crew (and about 300 others) were treated to a sight which was a very special. They saw the arrival of the first two of 72 F35A Joint Strike Fighters on their final delivery leg from the USA to Williamtown RAAF base. They were escorted by 4 F18s.



F35A Joint Strike Fighters



Water bombing aircraft and below collecting water from the bay.



While out on 2 recent assists, our crew got to say something to the Skipper we rarely have to say..."Skipper watch the aircraft on the port side"!

This was a water bombing aircraft helping fight the bush fire at Tea Gardens.

**Iain Blackadder**

## RFS LIAISON HUNTER VALLEY AND LOWER HUNTER

### RFS LIAISON HUNTER VALLEY

Compared to this time last year when major Section 44 fires were raging through the District in December, January and February, it is risking pandemonium by using the "Q" word - quiet - at the time of writing. There are several fires in Wollemi NP, all as a result of lightning strikes but these are at Advice level and the RFS is working on them with NPWS.

On 11 January District Manager Paul Best and 2IC Ken Hepplewhite visited the Base to meet with the UC Col Foote, ESLO Col Cahill and myself. They also delivered a new 2019 HV Contact Folder. This is very comprehensive and it is suggested all Watch Officers reacquaint themselves with the various sections and the detail therein. They reported satisfaction with our service.

Also discussed was that due to the switching between different radio systems, there is a three second delay between when the microphone is opened and the transmission can begin, i.e. between pushing the red button and the system being ready for the message. This is covered by the 'trill' for RFS1 - Lower Hunter but radio operators should count to three after pushing the button and speaking to RFS2 - Hunter Valley.

You may have noticed the sign at Fire & Rescue Salamander station reminding people to report signs of fire by dialling 000 instead of by Facebook. This is self-explanatory and part of a campaign to the general public that there is a real national service set up to respond to emergencies and is a far better vehicle than social media.

To check on the status of fires throughout NSW, download the free **Fires Near Me** app through iTunes or Google Play or go to [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/fire-information/fires-near-me)



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
Nov-18	HVRFS	3	4	1	3	4	3	1	3	22
Dec-18	HVRFS	1	1	0	0	1	0	4	7	14
Nov-18	LHRFS	15	0	7	7	15	10	4	15	73
Dec-18	LHRFS	24	0	3	10	16	25	8	20	106
Total for Nov/Dec		43	5	11	20	36	38	17	45	215
Total for 2018		290	71	47	79	143	150	51	207	991

### RFS LIAISON LOWER HUNTER

As can be seen December was particularly busy with the little "gentlemen" lighting up an average of one car a night. The same could be said for the number of motor vehicle accidents with a majority being roll overs. Unfortunately there was a fatality on Cabbage Tree Road during the period.

### MAMBO WETLANDS FIRE

A fire which raged through part of the Mambo Wetlands in December causing extensive damage to the area. The fire started in the area behind Mariner Crescent, and at last report was suspicious. The fire started while Marine Rescue were handling communications. Our base handled the initial paging of the multiple brigades that were called out and communications with those appliances. Well done to those on duty at the Comms Centre. Great effort by all involved. A total of 17 RFS units were on the fire ground. Fire and Rescue units also attended. There were



approximately 80 firefighters fighting this fire. Fortunately no houses were lost and property damage was minimal thanks to the efforts of the fire fighters. Unfortunately some koalas were lost which is devastating. Not all of the Mambo Wetlands was burnt and what is left is still a very pleasant walk. You ought to try it some day. The fire just shows that everybody in bushland areas should have a fire plan.

Of interest is the fact that at the community meeting with RFS Soldiers Point, MR was acknowledged as an integral part in the fighting of this fire, purely being the efforts of the Comms Centre staff.

One of the more unusual incidents of late was a truck fire virtually opposite one of the RFS stations.

The appliance reached the fire in 30

seconds but the majority of the fire fighters walked to the incident. Keep it local!!

**Ross Debenham**





## UNIT NEWS

### KEN JOHNSON RETIRES

New Years Eve 2018 was the last day of duty for our Coxswain, Watch Officer and Boat Manager, Ken Johnson. A day we said goodbye to an important operational member and a very good mate.

Ken joined Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol in 2004. In 2009 he transferred to Marine Rescue NSW when it was formed by the combining of all marine rescue services.

Over 15 years of service, Ken recorded over 5,000 hours in the Comms Centre, more than 3,000 hours on the boats and probably thousands of hours but not recorded as boat manager. Sad we are losing so much experience - but Ken was always willing to train others and pass on his knowledge and experience.



Before joining Marine Rescue Ken was a fighter Pilot flying for the RAAF. All those who went to sea on a rescue with Ken will have noticed a transfer of skills from Fighter Pilot to Coxswain! Exhilarating

Ken's last shift at the Radio Base was marked by a large number of members congratulating him as he left the radio base. An emotional experience for all of us.

His final duty (on the same day) was to help crew PS30 during the fireworks duty on NYE. His career with Marine Rescue ended with a bang.



Ken - all at Marine Rescue Port Stephens wish you well for the future. Enjoy your travels in the camper and visiting your family who are so important in your life. A big thanks from all of us for being who you are - a good mate.



New Years Eve fireworks. Above Launching the fireworks loaded barge. Right PS30 towing the barge into position. Above right end result, the wonderful fireworks.



## BIRDS AROUND THE BASE

### BIRDS AROUND THE BASE

Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*)

The Wedge-tailed Shearwater is the largest of the tropical shearwaters and can be seen in large numbers off Port Stephens. It is found along the entire east and west coasts of Australia and ranges across the tropical Pacific and Indian Oceans roughly between latitudes 35°N and 35°S. The name “shearwater” is derived from the bird’s ability to cut or shear the water with their sickle-shaped wings which appear relatively motionless in flight.



The Wedge-tailed Shearwater is 38-45 cm long with a wingspan up to 1 m. They have a slender tapering body with a small head. The

species exhibits two colour morphs; a dark morph which is entirely dark brown to brownish-grey and a light morph which is dark above and white beneath. It has a long wedge-shaped tail and flesh coloured webbed feet. The legs are set well back on the body as an adaptation for swimming. It has a slender dark grey, deeply grooved and hooked bill comprised of a number of horny plates and with well-defined tube nostrils on top.

The tubular nasal passages are a very sensitive olfactory organ that can detect prey from a great distance and which is also used to locate the nest within the nesting colony. Wedge-tailed Shearwaters drink seawater and excess salt is extracted from the blood by salt glands in the head and excreted through the nasal passages.

The Wedge-tailed Shearwater is also known as the “muttonbird”. It was collected from its breeding burrows and eaten by early European settlers who found that their flesh tasted like mutton.

The Wedge-tailed Shearwater feeds pelagically on fish, squid and crustaceans. They snatch prey while swimming on the surface or while flying close to the surface, and will also dive to pursue prey. They are often seen in flocks following fishing boats, scavenging discarded by-catch. Shearwaters are pelagic birds and spend all of their lives at sea, only coming ashore to breed. They do not walk well on land.

The wedge-tailed shearwater breeds in dense colonies on small predator-free off-shore islands. Around Australia this occurs from October to May. They are monogamous, forming a long term pair bond that lasts for several years

and sometimes for life. Females undertake a pre-laying exodus for around 28 days to build up energy reserves prior to laying their very large egg.

The nest is typically a burrow dug up to 2 m long in sand and is lined with grass and feathers. A single large egg 63 mm x 40 mm is laid. Both sexes incubate the egg in stints that can last up to 13 days. Incubation takes around 50 days. Upon hatching, the chick is semi-precocial and brooded for up to six days, until it is able to thermoregulate, after which it is left alone in the nest while both parents hunt for food. It is initially fed with stomach oil, an energy rich waxy oil of digested prey created in the parent's gut; later it is fed both solids and stomach oil. Parents leave the nest before dawn and return after dark. They locate and communicate with their chicks with an earie moaning call. Chicks increase in size to 560 g (larger than the adults) then drop to around 430 g before fledging. Fledging occurs after 103–115 days, after which



the chick is independent. Wedge-tailed shearwaters display natal philopatry, returning to their natal colony to begin breeding at the age of four.

Shearwaters and other pelagic birds

appear to fly without moving their wings. They use two techniques to minimise exertion while flying, namely, dynamic soaring and slope soaring. The upward deflected air current from the top of ocean swells is used to provide lift. Birds then glide onto the top of the next swell to repeat the process. This form of “shearing” flight is extremely efficient. When no wind is present, the birds remain floating on the surface forming large rafts, often with other pelagic species. Over 30 shearwater species are recognised worldwide but their taxonomy is not well understood.

Locally, breeding colonies of Short-tailed Shearwaters are known on Cabbage Tree Island with an estimated 1,050 pairs, Boondelbah Island with approximately 13,000 pairs and Broughton Island with approximately 18,000 pairs. A newly fledged bird was found sheltering at the Marine Rescue base one night in mid- August 2015. It is probable the bird was attracted by the prominent elevated lights of the base, confusing them with the rising moon. Coastal light pollution poses an increasing threat to navigation for some seabirds. The conservation status of the Short-tailed Shearwater is however, secure.

**Neil Fraser**  
**Twitter**



## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

### SOCIAL EVENTS

The MRPS Xmas Party on Wednesday 12 December was a resounding success, judging from all the comments overheard on the night. All 66 available places were filled, and the atmosphere was very jovial. It seems that we have fine-tuned our planning and organisation, and have set the bar quite high for future Unit functions. Many thanks to the Functions Staff at NB Bowling Club, who always ensure that the night is very smooth-running, and for the Kitchen Staff for putting on such a great meal.

Our perennial Xmas-dresser Eryl was unable to attend this year (we wish him well), but we still managed to get three fully fitted-out Santa Clauses to visit from the North Pole. There was lots of Xmas-themed gear and loads of activity. The prizes for Best Dressed male and female were this year won by Darrell Williams (with a very funny T-shirt) and Colleen Malloy, who was the best-looking Mrs Claus most will ever see. Many thanks to Brian McGuigan of *McGuigan Wines*, who contributed some wonderful bottles of wine for this year's prizes, and also to Sandi Moxham for the great prizes she contributes from her Bingo winnings.

We also had a very successful Secret Santa run by Lisa Lodding and Peter Dentrinos, with most of the party-goers participating - if you brought a gift, you got to pick a gift when your name was drawn. It was a ball of fun and a great addition to the normal agenda. Also during the evening Peter Young and Colleen Malloy and others from the fund-raising team sold the last remaining tickets in the major quarterly raffle, and then conducted the draw. The major prize was won by a local Corlette resident (non-member), and some of the minor prizes were claimed by MRPS members actually there on the night. Peter and his team do a great job raising money for our Unit, and are to be congratulated for their efforts.

This was the final Social Event to be run by Frank and myself (with great help from the two Debs), and we thank all members who have helped us to enjoy the many functions that we have conducted over the past few years. We wish the future organisers Lisa and Heather great success, and look forward to many more happy events.

**Laurie Nolan and Frank van Druten**



### MRPS Social Committee 2019 schedule

Month	Date	Event	Comments
<b>MARCH</b>	Saturday 09 March	Family BBQ(Spit Roast)	Details TBA

#### Year 2019 NSW Public School Holidays

<b>Autumn Holidays</b>	13-Apr-19	28-Apr-19
<b>Winter Holidays</b>	6-Jul-19	21-Jul-19
<b>Spring Holidays</b>	28-Sep-19	13-Oct-19
<b>Summer Holidays</b>	21-Dec-19	27-Jan-20



## ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS

# Service Anniversaries

Congratulations and thanks to all the following members of the PORT STEPHENS UNIT who have given their time and service as volunteers so willingly. Our existence depends on it.

<b>FEBRUARY</b>		Robert JOHNSON	11			Peter DENTRINOS	4
Rod REESON	32	Ian DRUMMOND	8	<b>MARCH</b>		Lisa LODDING	4
Peter PHILLIPSON	29	Lee UEBERGANG	7	Brian WHEATLEY	18	Heather PERRY-COMLEY	3
Shirley CLARK	28	Graeme ABBERTON	5	Maureen WHEATLEY	18	Adi SAMI	2
Ross DEBENHAM	17	Mick MILTON	5	Mark LACEY	12	Rex ATKINS	2
Brian CARROLL	16	Trevor BRIGHTON	2	Michael DUGGAN	11	Peter YOUNG	2
Eileen KELLY	14	Deborah NOLAN	2	Laurie NOLAN	9		
Russell CRAIG	12	Lynn GIBSON	1	Betty TRICKETT	9		
Marian CHAPPEL	11	Murray O'DEA	1	Penelope HIGHLAND	9		
Bill HASKELL	11	Colleen MALLOY	1	Angus MACKENZIE	5		

# Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following members of the PORT STEPHENS UNIT with birthdays in February and March

<b>FEBRUARY</b>	Bob COGHLAN	Geoffrey MOORE	Stephen HARRIS
Mary GUTRY	Trevor MOXHAM	Malcolm MILLIKEN	John VASSALLO
Peter FITZSIMONS	Julie CHAUNCY	Carol BASTICK	Heather HASKETT
Mike PIERPOINT	Steve SPEAR	Narelle FISHER	Mark LACEY
Brian RICHARDSON	Midge MULLARD	Tony O'DONNELL	Dave FRAME
Robert HARRIS	Ross CAMBOURN	Marian CHAPPEL	Lisa LODDING
Krystyna WINSLOW	Peter MERLINO	Will SCOTT	Anthony BATCHLER
Pete LINDWALL	Seleana POWELL	Denise OLSEN	Jay LYNCH
Lynn GIBSON	Gary DUCKETT	Ross DEBENHAM	
Neil FRASER	Steve WRIGHT	Peter YOUNG	
Angela TILLING	Murray O'DEA	Denise TAYLOR	
Ben VAN DER WIJNGAART		Laurie NOLAN	
	<b>MARCH</b>	Steve CHAUNCY	



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# PORT STEPHENS WEATHER

## Nelson Bay, NSW - December 2018

Date	Day	Temps		Rain mm
		Min	Max	
		°C	°C	
1	Sa		26.4	0
2	Su	16.2	34.5	0.2
3	Mo		26.9	0
4	Tu	19	26.4	0
5	We	19.5	26.4	0
6	Th	19.8	23.8	0.6
7	Fr	17.6	24.1	0
8	Sa	15.2	24.5	0
9	Su	14.2	24.4	0
10	Mo	12.5	27.2	0
11	Tu	19.7	23.3	1.4
12	We	18.8	24.9	8
13	Th	19.3	25.9	0.1
14	Fr	20.3	28.5	0
15	Sa	21.2	26.8	7.2
16	Su		24.8	1.6
17	Mo	18	25.9	1.8
18	Tu	19	27.7	0
19	We	21.1	27.8	0
20	Th	20.2	28	20.5
21	Fr	21.1	25.1	0
22	Sa	17.5	22.6	0.4
23	Su	18.2	23.6	3
24	Mo	16.7	26.4	0
25	Tu	18.2	25.9	0
26	We	20.5	29.6	0
27	Th	17.8	26	0
28	Fr	16.5	26.5	0
29	Sa	17.8	27	0
30	Su	15.8	28.6	0
31	Mo	16.8	27.2	0

### Statistics for December 2018

Mean	18.2	26.3	
Lowest	12.5	22.6	0
Highest	21.2	34.5	20.5
Total			44.8

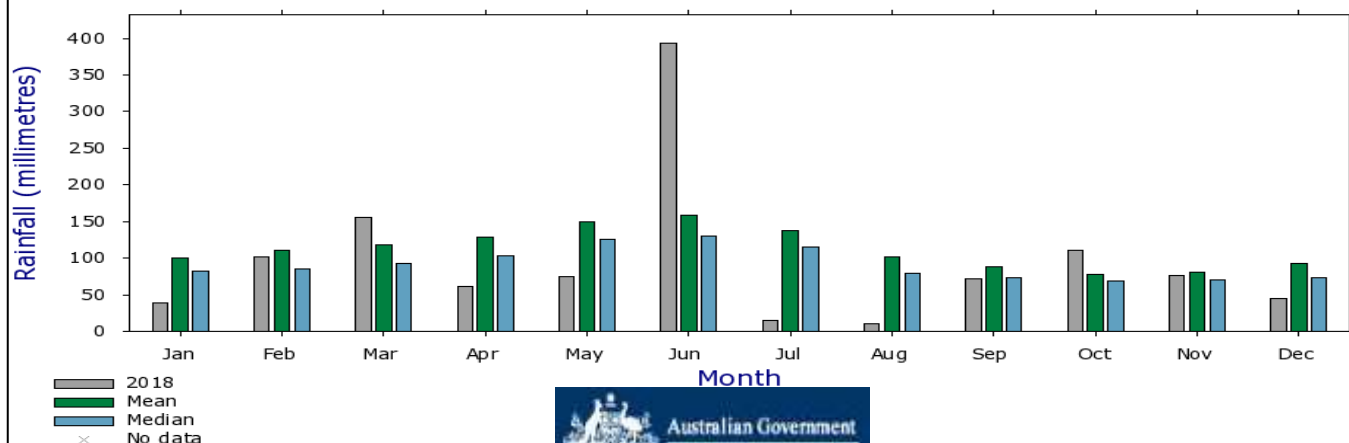
## Nelson Bay, NSW - January 2019

Date	Day	Temps		Rain mm
		Min	Max	
		°C	°C	
1	Tu	19.7	27.8	1.8
2	We	19.1	27.3	0
3	Th	19		0
4	Fr		27.3	0
5	Sa	18.9	32	0
6	Su	19.1	22.5	2.2
7	Mo	18.9		4.1
8	Tu			0
9	We		27.1	0
10	Th		26.5	0
11	Fr	20.5	27.2	0
12	Sa	18.2	28.2	1.8
13	Su	20.8	28.9	0
14	Mo		28.7	0
15	Tu		27.3	0
16	We		28.3	0
17	Th	23.8	28	0
18	Fr	23.2	29.4	0
19	Sa	22	29.5	0
20	Su	21	28.1	2.2
21	Mo	21.6	27.8	4
22	Tu	20.4	28.5	0.3
23	We	21.4	30.4	0
24	Th	20.7	27.4	0
25	Fr	20.3	29.1	0
26	Sa	21.6	29.4	0
27	Su	21.9	29.1	0
28	Mo		29.5	0
29	Tu	23.5	27.2	0
30	We	22.5	26.8	0
31	Th	15.1	28.3	0

### Statistics for January 2019

Mean	20.6	28.1	
Lowest	15.1	22.5	0
Highest	23.8	32	4.1
Total			16.4

Nelson Bay (Nelson Head) (061054) 2018 Rainfall (millimetres)



Note: Data may not have completed quality control



## MARINE RESCUE PORT STEPHENS

*"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally"*



### **Our service to Port Stephens 2005-2018**

People saved/ assisted	5,404
Rescues and assists	2,419
Value of vessels saved	\$245M+
Rescue Crew volunteer hours	56,000+
Radio Base volunteer hours	284,700+
Radio calls made/received	292,168
Telephone calls made/received	268,145

**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, Peter Merlino, Laurie Nolan, Tony O'Donnell, 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.

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

Please show your appreciation by giving them your custom.

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		Soldiers Point Marina
	Boating Sales and Repairs	Nelson Bay Outboard Services
	Fishing Supplies	Duff's Salamander Bait & Tackle (at Coles Express)
<b>Motor Vehicles</b>	Service Stations/Tyres	Fingal Bay Service Station and Tyres
<b>Windscreen Repairs</b>		Novus Autoglass Shop
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<b>Restaurants and Cafes</b>		Oysters on the Bay – D'Albora Marinas
		Inner Light Tea Rooms, Nelson Head
<b>Radio Station</b>		Port Stephens FM 100.9



## NEXT UNIT MEETING

**TUESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2019**  
**TUESDAY 19 MARCH 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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*“Have you visited d’Albora Marinas Nelson Bay recently?*

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

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Broughtons at the Bay	02 4981 0865	Noakes Boatyard	02 4984 4150
Cafe & Convenience on the Bay	02 4981 0921	Pacific Water Colours	02 4984 1922
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