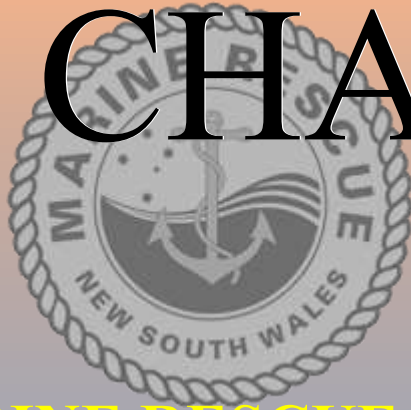


# PORT CHATTER



FEBRUARY 2018

## MARINE RESCUE NSW PORT STEPHENS UNIT



*"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally"*





## MARINE RESCUE NSW – PORT STEPHENS UNIT

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

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## VOLUNTEERS SAVING LIVES ON THE WATER

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<b>Patrons:</b> Kate Washington MP, State Member Port Stephens Meryl Swanson MP, Federal Member Paterson Stephen Bromhead LLM MP, State Member Myall Lakes The Hon. Dr David Gillespie MP, Federal Member Lyne The Hon. Bob Baldwin		<b>Emergency Services Liaison</b> <b>Awards and Recognition</b> <b>Protocol Officer</b> <b>Corporate Services</b> <b>Administration Officer</b> Base Centre Services W.H. & S Officer Base Security Membership  Rosters Building & Services Coordinator  Data Base/Stats Technical Services  Admin Support Historian	<b>Colin Cahill</b> <b>Iain Blackadder</b> <b>Harold Gibson</b>  <b>John Reid</b> Jenny Fitzsimons Angus MacKenzie John P Smith Loris Webster Heather Haskett Peter Baldwin Trevor Brighton Steve Picton Margaret Morrison Maureen Wheatley Lee Ryman Brian Richardson Peter Baldwin Robert Johnson Dieter Greiter Erica Smith Paul Farnill
<b>Unit Commander</b> <b>Deputy Unit Commander</b> <b>Operations</b> <b>Operations Officer</b> Duty Callout Officers  Communications Centre Manager Ashes Scattering Coordinator Rescue Vessels Manager Chief Engineer R.F.S. Liaison Coxswains	<b>Lee Uebergang</b> <b>Neil Hansford</b>  <b>Tony O'Donnell</b> Penelope Highland (Lead) Neil Fraser Angus MacKenzie Jenny Frost Michael Grover Harold Gibson Ken Johnson Bill Haskell Ross Debenham Colin Couper Ken Johnson Barney Pinney Laurie Nolan	<b>Trust Management Sub-Committee</b> Chairman Treasurer/Deputy Chairman Secretary Committee Port Stephens Historical Society Welfare / Liaison Wedding Events Co-ordinator  Tours	Kevin Griffey Peter Merlino Ross Debenham Peter Fitzsimons Dennis Corr Harold Gibson Jenny Fitzsimons Lyn Gibson Vacant
<b>Finance</b> <b>Treasurer</b> <b>Community Relations</b> <b>Community Relations Officer</b> Public Relations/Social Media Events Coordinator Editor Port Chatter Asst Editor Port Chatter Radio Club Manager Social Committee  Gift Shop Manager Grants Officer Fund Raising Officer Unit Photographer Webmaster	<b>Peter Merlino</b>  <b>Neil Hansford</b> Matt Darby Dee Gilliland Penelope Highland Frank van Druten Elizabeth Francis Laurie & Deb Nolan Frank & Deb van Druten Sandra Scheuber Julian Liddy-Meaney Peter Young Geoff Clark Peter Baldwin	<p>The <i>Port Chatter</i> is the bi-monthly newsletter of Marine Rescue NSW, Port Stephens unit. It is available free to all members of the unit, its advertisers, sponsors, and other interested members of the community.</p> <p><b>Contributions</b> are most welcome from all members, advertisers, sponsors or other interested community members. They should be accompanied by the author's name, address and phone number, and can be emailed to the editor at <a href="mailto:editor.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au">editor.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au</a>. Contributions are subject to review by the Executive Committee prior to publishing.</p> <p><b>Advertising</b> enquiries are welcomed. Contact the editor at <a href="mailto:editor.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au">editor.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au</a> for more information.</p> <p><b>Sponsors</b> can make <b>tax-deductible</b> donations to Marine Rescue NSW Port Stephens. All sponsorships will be acknowledged in <i>Port Chatter</i> if requested.</p> <p><b>Cover Photographs</b> - Penelope Highland &amp; Stephen Alta</p>	
<b>Education and Training</b> <b>Unit Training Officer</b> Training Systems Officer Assistant Training Systems Officer Rescue Vessels Training Officer Course Presenters: Peter Dentrinos Mick Milton David Rogers Provisional Member Mentoring	<b>Brian Bibbing</b> Graeme Abberton Julian Liddy-Meaney Richard Pizzuto Paul Buckley Neil Fraser Richard Pizzuto		
<b>Welfare / Liaison</b> Assistant	<b>Harold Gibson</b> Jenny Fitzsimons		

## OUR GOAL

To be the most effective Marine Rescue Unit in NSW

## OUR PRIMARY FOCUS

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

### MARINE RESCUE NSW – PORT STEPHENS UNIT SERVICES PROVIDED



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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## FROM THE BRIDGE

### UNIT COMMANDER

Welcome to the first edition of Port Chatter for 2018. My article in the December 2017 Port Chatter was a reflection on the achievements and highlights of 2017; a "year in review" if you like .... so I won't sail that course again!!!

What I will say to close out 2017 is that to everyone's great credit, we managed the hectic December / January holiday boating season without missing a shift in the Comms Centre, Gift Shop or Cottage and we responded to every request for assistance from the rescue vessels. We also managed our RFS after-hours communications responsibilities without issue. I'd particularly like to acknowledge the Executive Committee (Neil Hansford, Tony O'Donnell, Brian Bibbing, John Reid and Peter Merlino) who continued to manage and support the Unit



Docking PS31 at Tea Gardens

throughout December and January. Also, well done to all Unit Members involved in our key operational and other functional activities.

I have no doubt that 2018 will be as busy as previous years and together we will step up to the challenges and opportunity. The Executive Committee meeting on 18 January was focused on identifying and prioritising the items to be delivered over the next six months. We will continue to fully engage with the local community, host visits by our Patrons, politicians and local dignitaries, apply for grants, undertake fund raising activities and complete a number of projects commenced in 2017. For most of the Members it will be "business as usual" as we also continue to refine our training packages and our administrative processes.

One challenge we all endure is parking congestion. Marine Rescue Members are asked to park in the dedicated Marine Rescue spaces, only use the three "overflow" spaces on the north western side of the Disabled Spot if all Marine Rescue spaces are in use, and NOT to park in the public car park when the café is open.

Marine Rescue has an agreement with the café lessee regarding parking which we must honour. Your cooperation is appreciated.

One refinement to our procedures that we implemented in 2017 was the use of online applications for Members wanting to sign-up for fundraising and public awareness activities, social events and to fill vacant roster positions. The days of writing your name on a list in the kitchen are rapidly drawing to an end as we take the next step of using online applications to register for training activities. Thank you for embracing this change.

The Executive Committee and I are eagerly looking forward to visiting HQ of MRNSW in Cronulla on 12 February. I'm positive the visit will further strengthen the relationships of both organisations and help build personal relationships that will enhance future dealings.

The final item I wish to mention is the Unit Elections that will be held in May for the next Unit and Deputy Unit Commander. As you all will be aware, I won't be standing for Unit Commander so the search is on for the next generation of leaders of this fine volunteer organisation. Please contact Neil or I if you are interested in either role and we can describe the pleasures and rewards associated with each position.

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



Laurie Nolan skippering PS31.

**Lee Uebergang**

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## FROM THE BRIDGE.....

### DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

It hasn't been all quiet on the non-operational front over Christmas/New Year.

By the time you read this we have had over 50,000 "hits" on our website since it was revamped to make it the most informative site in Marine Rescue NSW. Tremendous credit must go to the very busy Rosters Officer Peter Baldwin who maintains the site and keeps it newsworthy.

The sign on function for social events, filling roster gaps and volunteering for fund raising is now extensively used.

For many years we have wanted to be able to access the regularly updated roster without visiting or calling the Base. Now it can be done from the *Members Only Page* on the Website.

Simply go to

[www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au](http://www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au) and if you want to not only read the latest weather but can also go to the *Members Only Page* at the bottom and by clicking on it and using the password can access this area.

In addition to the members area every aspect of the Units history and other sort after information has been updated. There is always new news!

#### Collection Boats

Stephen Alta is doing a great job keeping on top of our collection boats assisted by the team who bring the contents back regularly to be counted at the base.

If a boat isn't producing results Stephen moves it to a place where it can.

With cash becoming less of a medium we are bucking the trend and increasing our donations from the collection boxes. The introduction of "Pay Wave" is seeing cash disappearing for transactions the size of a cup of coffee.

We have never had so many collection boats out there and we are going to have to order more!

Hog's Nelson Bay

We have received our first donation from the Hog's promotion. The next one is expected to be the big one as it will cover November to January which is a peak time for Hog's in the Bay.

If you want a wholesome feed pick up the discount vouchers from the base or from Port Chatter and save 10% or a special offer.

#### Port Chatter

Do you realise that Port Chatter is available to almost 1,000 people?

Port Chatter is offered to all our MRS Members to

download and read about what their "safety on the water umbrella" is doing.

Penelope and Frank do an outstanding job to produce bi-monthly what is clearly the best Unit magazine in NSW and probably Australia.

#### Gift Shop

As you read this our team of dedicated ladies will be getting ready to take a break from a very busy December/January where sales have broken all past records. If we only had more space!

Sandra assured me that the mountain of stock received in November would get us through January. It didn't and

Sandra had to order additional stock to fill

the shelves!

Come to the Mess meetings and see and hear how much profit is being generated from this activity. The ladies have a lot to be proud of and we owe a real debt of gratitude to Sandra and the Gift Shop team.

#### Grants

Julian Lyddy-Meaney is abreast of the applications for grants from Government and registered clubs. Wests Nelson Bay have been very generous to us over recent years having facilitated over \$70,000 in Grants for base and vessel upgrading.

A big part of what Julian does is not only preparing new applications but the serious job of overseeing that the allocated money has been spent appropriately.

If you have done a First Aid Course in recent times you will have seen the Defibrillation and CPR Trainers we now have and no longer must borrow. The NSW Government provided a grant of over \$320,000 to get this vital training equipment into every Unit.

#### MRS

Elizabeth Francis is now looking after over 700 MRS members on our database. We now use the head office

(Continued on page 9)



Out of Date Flares collected at Little Beach



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## FROM THE BRIDGE.... AND CORPORATE SERVICES

(Continued from page 7)

"Radio Club" database, so no duplication in MaRIO.

Elizabeth has done a lengthy reconciliation and the database is synchronized with Seahawk.

Have you noticed how many of our MRS members are finding it convenient to log on and off using the Seahawk phone app?

### Fundraising

I would like to welcome Peter Young to the role as



Out of Date flare collection at Hawks Nest and Little Beach on 21 January.

unit Fundraising Officer... and thanks to John Herrett for the time and effort he put into the role. Anyone interested in assisting in fundraising activities should call Peter.

**Neil Hansford**



## ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

### Administration

The back-log of uniform orders has been cleared and we can hopefully look forward to a much more efficient supply chain from HO in the coming year.

### Membership

Heather Haskett has been appointed to assist Loris Webster with membership matters. The new format for membership recruitment has been introduced with the first Information Night for new members held on Thursday 18 January. Attendance at this meeting far exceeded our expectations with 45 potential members attending to be briefed on the operations of Marine Rescue Port Stephens. There were many questions on the opportunities for new members to get involved in all of the various operations of the unit. We are confident of transforming a large number of those enquiries into new members and will now follow through on the process of interviews and induction for those people expressing further interest.

Mentoring of new members will now be carried out "on the job" with selected senior members guiding new recruits through their initial six months provisional membership.

### Technical Services

The porting of the final four telephone lines has been

completed so we are now fully converted to NBN for all communications. The final step in the process is the completion of the air fibre link between the Base and the Ramada Hotel in Shoal Bay. Cabling has been run and we expect final completion of this connection by early February. This connection will provide a full back-up to our existing NBN land-line thereby ensuring the continuity of our communications in the event of a system failure.

### Building & Facilities

Trevor Brighton has been appointed as the Building & Facilities coordinator and is already carrying out an audit of all buildings to determine what work is required. A contractor has been brought in to service all of the air conditioning units in the Base to ensure they are fully operational for the remaining summer months and beyond.

### WH&S

Angus MacKenzie has been appointed as the WH&S coordinator and will work closely with Trevor to identify any WH&S issues around the Base.

**John Reid**



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## TECHNICAL SERVICES AND GIFT SHOP

### TECHNICAL SERVICES HARDWARE OFFICER

#### VoIP Phone Lines

Over the last three months we have progressively migrated to VoIP telephony, initially on the less critical Shop, RFS and MR Admin and MR Emergency lines to test and identify any issues, and finally our more critical MR Lines and the Fireline. This has involved the implementation of an NBN connection, changes to our internet router to ensure priority is given to telephony data, new modules and configuration changes in the phone system and to the voice recorder. We are one of the first to use the VoIP recording capabilities of the Electrodata voice recorder, and to implement VoIP trunked telephony.

As of the 18 January the final vestiges of traditional copper phone lines were removed with the final porting of our numbers from Telstra to the VoIP provider.

We now only have one main Comms Centre number, but it can handle three simultaneous calls, and fully supports caller and called id. If there is any complete failure of our internet connection or phone system, calls will automatically divert to the base mobile phone.

We also have migrated our fax line to a virtual fax service - faxes are instead sent and received automatically as emails to the base email account.

This has represented a significant time and effort in research, testing, liaising with service providers and configuration and installation of equipment, in part due to the complexity of our operating requirements.

Throughout this entire process the focus has been on continuity of service, and the migration has been achieved with no more than a couple of minutes of downtime. The clarity of the VoIP lines is demonstrated in the improved live crosses to PSFM, and calls will be established quicker than traditional dialling technology

#### Backup Ramada NBN Connection

Work is continuing on the second "backup" NBN connection. The Wi-Fi link, new router and modem and battery backup has been bench-tested and is ready to be moved to the Ramada. Once installed, this will give the



Welcome to the New Year, I wish every member in Marine Rescue family and friends a very Healthy and happy New Year.

The Gift Shop was very Busy in November which now seems a long time ago. December was quiet and not sure what to expect for January, if only we had a crystal ball.

Comms Centre redundancy and additional bandwidth.

#### Public Address System

The phone system is now connected to the public address system at the Comms Centre. Instead of having to open up the enclosure of the public address system, operators may simply dial #00 on the phone system, wait for the chime and speak into the handset (for up to 30 seconds).

However once the evacuation alert has been activated, you can only override it from the public address panel.

#### Tips on Better Telephone Use

Can you pick which of the following three images demonstrates the correct position to hold the telephone handset?



If you do not hold the mouthpiece in front of your mouth, you will be muffling your speech. Whilst I doubt there would be many who would try to talk through the top of their head, how often do you attempt to talk through your neck? Or look to the side or at the computer while still talking?

It makes a difference to the skippers we talk to, who are often battling wind and sea to hear us!

**Lee Ryman**

The ladies have been working very hard with many filling in extra shifts. Thank you for your support.

Denise Olson and I will be attending the Sydney Trade Fair in February, looking for new ideas and stock

**Sandra Scheuber**



Denise Olsen and Pam Smith on Duty



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## OPERATIONS

### OPERATIONS OFFICER

By the time you read this issue of Port Chatter we will be well into 2018. The summer holidays were pretty busy for Marine Rescue, especially the Comms Centre. Who knows what 2018 will bring however we want to wish our partners (Port Stephens Water Police, RMS, RFS Lower Hunter and Hunter Valley and of course Marine Rescue Lemon Tree Passage) a very successful and safe time during the coming year.

Now is a good time to review the year that was. Running two commercial boats is not a cheap exercise (it is a very expensive part of our operations). The boat and radio crews are very much aware that the financial contribution from the Members who run the **Gift Shop** make our way of operating that much easier and to a large extent keep us on the air and on the water. **Thanks Ladies.**

2017 was a busy year in the **Comms Centre** which was staffed 24 hours a day every day of the year by unpaid volunteers. With 365 days, that means we covered 2190



shifts serving the community through Marine Radio Watches and RFS Communications at night. Congratulations to all our Comms Centre Staff – you do amazing work.

We are sure you will be interested to know that during the year the Comms Centre made about 15,000 marine radio calls and a further 19,000 telephone calls. A large percentage of these communications were routine however many were directly involved with **saving of lives at sea.**

Throughout the year the Comms Centre managed **206 on-water incidents**. An incident can range from a flare sighting to a full-blown May Day Distress Call. In these recorded incidents, there were 438 people on-board the vessels requiring assistance. Without doubt, there are people at home today who may not be there if it was not for the efforts of our Watch Staff. You certainly make a difference.

Our boats are generally tasked by the Marine Area Command of the Water Police. Many on-water incidents are handled by the Port Stephens Water Police while Marine Rescue is asked to respond to other situations on the water. Our boats were tasked approximately 100 times throughout the year with the busiest times being in

the holiday periods and naturally during poor weather conditions.

Every time our boats were tasked our volunteer crews took the boats out – no matter what time of day or night. We never refused a tasking.

Our crews pulled 12 people directly out of the water during the year. Vessel assists ranged from “simple” flat battery problems right through to Yachts with serious gear failure in deteriorating weather/sea conditions.

Our longest job was to assist a distressed vessel 28 Nautical Miles off the coast. We appreciated the cooperation given to us by very large bulk carriers in the shipping lanes when they altered their course to assist our towing progress back to the port.

Our boat crews train hard and that shows when they are assisting vessels with problems out on the water. For a small team, you also do amazing work and make a big difference. Our boats support other community events such as placing fireworks barges over the Festive Season, act as safety boats in paddling events and also support the training of the RAAF Rescue Helicopter crews. In 2017 we worked with the RAAF in Pilot Rescue training.

We also want to acknowledge the fine work done by our **Duty Callout Officers**. When rostered they carry a mobile phone everywhere (repeat everywhere) so they can instantly callout boat crews when requested, liaise



with the Water Police and the Comms Centre. It all wouldn't happen without the efforts of these unsung Marine Rescue members.

Finally, as many of you know we have been acting as the out of hours communications centre for the Lower Hunter RFS, we have now added the Hunter Valley RFS to this service. Although we meet very few of their members directly it is indeed a privilege to work with them when they are called to fight fires, attend Motor Vehicle accidents etc.

During 2017 our Comms Centre managed the communications for 951 RFS incidents. This naturally necessitates many thousands of additional Radio and telephone calls made by our base. Well done to our Night Shift Watch Officers – amazing work.

*(Continued on page 15)*

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you can undertake in your own home. Please ask our  
friendly pharmacist for more information

Did you know that if you have sleep apnea you are:

- 7 times more likely to have heart disease
- More likely to have a stroke
- More likely to have a car accident
- More likely to have problems controlling your diabetes.

If you already have a Sleep Apnea machine, it is recommended  
that it be cleaned every 6 months.



## OPERATIONS...., BOATS OFFICER AND RFS LIAISON HUNTER VALLEY

*(Continued from page 13)*

**This summer** has been very busy, especially in the Comms Centre. Some days over the holidays saw record numbers of vessels logged on and tracked. We can't explain in a few words how hard our Comms Centre staff work when such demands are placed upon them. Sort of like a swan gliding across the water – on the surface everything looks smooth but underneath the water there is frantic paddling. At the same time our Comms Centre staff managed 32 on-water incidents in December alone.

Our boats in December were tasked 22 times to assist those in trouble on the water. The maximum number of assists in one day was 4.

So lots of statistics to take-in however in summary they show how busy the Operations at Marine Rescue Port Stephens are and the difference our people make to the community both on the water and on land.

**Tony O'Donnell**



### BOATS OFFICER

Welcome everyone to 2018.

Now that we no longer have the Danial Thain you would think that the pressure has dropped off the maintenance team, but no, thankfully I have a very good group of volunteers working with me. Ian Drummond and Rex Atkins, ably assisted by Robert Stewart when he can get time off from his real job, look after Codi K II. While Iain Blackadder, Tony O'Donnell, Ian Jack and Heather Perry-Comley, together with Steve Murray and Laurie Nolan mainly care for the John Thompson. Barney Pinney flits between the



vessels with his electrical and electronics knowledge. Finally, I am extremely grateful to Bill Haskell for coming on board to handle the scheduled servicing for both boats.

Both craft have performed exceptionally well over the Christmas period with no need to take them off-line apart from the servicing of their engines. This was done this month with no problems.

PS30 has been performing well and has had the through-the-hull depth transducer fitted to replace the transom mounted unit that kept

being knocked off by the pen gate.

**Ken Johnson**



### RFS LIAISON HUNTER VALLEY

Over Christmas, Hunter Valley RFS members were fighting four fires caused by lightning strikes in the Howes Valley and Putty areas. This included the Apple Tree fire which they finally had contained by 29 December. It was serious enough to be declared a Section 44 incident by the Commissioner under the Rural Fires Act 1997.

Once declared, the district has access to any and all fire-fighting personnel/equipment from across the State at no cost to the district or RFS, with the State Government footing the bill. This includes brigades, aircraft and RAFT (Remote Area Firefighting Team) teams from other Districts.

The accompanying picture shows one team loading up at the staging area at Putty Hall, to be dropped into an inaccessible area. To see what they do once there, click



on the link below.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrFD5i0637w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrFD5i0637w)

*(Continued on page 17)*



# FINGAL BAY BOWLS, SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB

100 Rocky Point Road, Fingal Bay

Phone: 4984 1244

Fax: 4981 1468

## BINGO

### Club Bingo

Mondays at 7pm and

Wednesdays at 9.30am

**Children Welcome (must  
be supervised by an adult)**

## Raffles

### Thursdays

Fishing Club Meat Tray Raffle  
at 6.30pm

### Fridays at 5pm

**Monster Meat & Chicken  
Raffles  
(100 trays)**

Ticket sales from 4.15pm  
Buy \$10 and receive \$5 free

## FINGAL BAY BISTRO

Great food at reasonable prices  
**Open 7 days for lunch 12-2.00pm  
and dinner from 5.30-8pm with  
nightly specials which are:**

Monday – Barramundi Night

Tuesday – Schnitzel Night

Wednesday – Steak Night

Thursday – Two for one specials  
night (check the two for one  
specials board)

Friday – Fresh Seafood night

Saturday – Chefs selection night

Sunday Family roast Day and  
Night.

## 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.*



## RFS LIAISON HUNTER VALLEY AND LOWER HUNTER

(Continued from page 15)

The accompanying photo shows the briefing of the Incident team conducted in the Fire Control room of the EOC (Emergency Operations Centre) at Bulga.

During November and December the Comms Centre handled the Incidents tabled below:

Hunter Valley have added me to their e-mail circulation list for Community Update Newsletters and Media Releases. These will be printed out and added to a small folder located with the other RFS material stored at the Comms Centre. Watchkeepers will now be able to check major fire activity information before taking over the HV Firecom.

**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-17	LHRFS	44	5	3	13	12	0	11	88
Dec-17	LHRFS	17	4	6	12	13	0	20	72
Nov-17	HVRFS	30	3	14	5	11	8	14	85
Dec-17	HVRFS	34	1	15	8	15	5	8	86

### RFS LIAISON LOWER HUNTER

We have had our first big fire of the summer in the Williamtown, Tomago, and Raymond Terrace area. It has led to the closure of Newcastle Airport, Richardson Road and Nelson Bay Road at times. RFS air resources have been used as well as fire fighters from other areas including northern Sydney. Steve Alta has kindly provided a photo of the closure of the road on the way back from Newcastle.



#### Something Different

Sometimes as the Firecom for Lower Hunter and Hunter Valley we get jobs that are a little bit unusual. It happened to me on a Friday night shift in December when

I received a call on the fire line for Fire & Rescue with their operators first words were "I don't think this is really your job, but we couldn't think of anyone else to give it to." What had happened was that a woman was going from Chichester Dam to Frying Pan Creek when she became bogged. I phoned the DO who agreed it really wasn't our job but he would try to do something about it. Shortly after Group 4 came on the radio and said he was going to the road where the woman had said she was bogged to help out. Unfortunately when Group 4 reached the road it became apparent that she was not on that road. After a while the police and her friends came up to the location to search as well. No luck. The woman was beginning to panic, making many calls to 112 on her mobile. After a while F& R were patching her calls directly through to me. The police gave up, the friends went back to camp. Group 4 decided to have one more try. During our conversation, the woman mentioned that she thought she was two streets past a certain road. The DO found the road on the map & she really wasn't near where she thought she was. She activated her hazard lights, Group 4 activated his lights and after two and a half hours the woman was located and pulled out of the mud. The lesson from this whole thing is that don't trust your GPS in the bush, it may get you there the most direct route but it doesn't know the condition of the road!

**Ross Debenham**



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# France

## FAMILY FUNERALS

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## WELFARE AND LIGHTHOUSE TRUST

### WELFARE OFFICER

**Hello readers** I trust that you have all had a good Christmas and settled down after the new year, with all the family and visitors returning home. The area has certainly been a busy one with tourists, both on the water and off. I would think that this is the largest number of tourists that I have seen, over the Christmas holidays in the years that I have lived here.

Enough from me, let us move on to members on the seasick list.

Unfortunately for **Krystyna Winslow**, she had a fall at home, just before Christmas resulting in a very severe leg fracture.

Krystyna was taken to Newcastle hospital for major surgery and also a longer than expected stay. All is on the mend for her now but still a long way to go before we will have her back climbing our stairs at the Comms Centre.

We are all thinking of you Krystyna and look forward to your return to duties.

**Brian Richardson** has also had a stay in Newcastle hospital. Our ever popular and talented computer programmer was far from his normal jovial self, when he presented himself to the local hospital recently. Brian was transferred to the John Hunter hospital with a very severe lung infection. Brian reports that several weeks have past since his hospitalisation and he is now starting to feel that he is on the road to recovery.

All the best Brian, we are all thinking of you and look forward to having you back on deck soon.

**Steve Chauncy** welcome home Steve after a stay at John Hunter Hospital. Steve has been on the waiting list for many months to have a major heart surgery operation. After four cancellations over the past few months, Steve's operation was finally done in early January. Steve had a few set backs from the operation initially while still in hospital, however all has settled down now and the operation has been a great success for him.

Our thoughts also to Julie for the worrying times that she has also gone through with Steve's surgery.

**Claude Xuereb** is one of our new members who transferred from MR Merimbula many months ago.

However due to a severe medical condition at the time of moving, he has been unable to join us. Good news though, on catching up with Claude just before Christmas, he informs me that all is now going well and looking forward to joining us in some capacity at the base this year. All the best Claude and we will certainly look forward to your presence at the base soon.

**Rena Gardiner** informed us of the passing of her husband Alexander on 12 January after a severe heart attack. Rena and Alex had been married for 53 years and moved to Nelson Bay in 2016 from Sydney. Alex's passing was very hard on the ladies who work in the gift shop with Rena, however excellent support was given to Rena from the ladies.

Marine Rescue Port Stephens members with UC Lee and DUC Neil dressed in full dress uniform, along with many of the members, also showed their presence in a display of blue uniforms at the service for Alex held at the Baptist Church Nelson Bay to support Rena and her family.

Rena, all of your friends and members at Marine Rescue Port Stephens are thinking of you during these very hard times, we are also here to assist you at any time.

**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.**

### LIGHTHOUSE TRUST CHAIRMAN

The Trust has received complaints regarding a few Marine Rescue members smoking in areas that are banned by law on the Reserve and disposing of used cigarette butts on the walk way below the stairs to the Operations Room.

We are all aware that it is unlawful to smoke, within four metres of a pedestrian access point to a public building. All Members should know where the two smoking zones are on the Reserve and that they should use the identifiable bins to dispose their used cigarette butts.

The Trust welcomed Ross Debenham as its Secretary to the Nelson Head Lighthouse Trust Sub-Committee.

Peter Merlino, Bob Harris, Peter Fitzsimons, John Adams and Steve Chauncy in addition to other volunteer duties have worked extremely hard during the months of November and December 2017, cleaning and tidying the Reserve in readiness for the influx of visitors during the peak season. This included using over 30 litres of paint for cottage verandah floor, white picket fence, wooden

*(Continued on page 21)*

## AWARDS



Clockwise from top left : Lee Uebergang presented Awards to Iain Blackadder, MR Crew, Ian Peacock, Watch Officer, Loris Webster, 5 year Pin Sarah Charters, MRO epaulets and Colin Foote, 5 year Pin.





## LIGHTHOUSE TRUST AND BIRDS AROUND THE BASE

*(Continued from page 19)*

ramps and hand rails, car park lines, posts, ropes, Stevenson Screen and lattice work. They placed three cubic meters of mulch on the John Thompson Gardens, planted new plants which the rabbits ate the next day! Despite this set back the plants are growing back.

The Trust held its thank you and Christmas function on Thursday 14 December 2017 for its hard working members. We had 35 members and partners attend including six members from the Nelson Bay Historical Society (NBHS). The NBHS members volunteer in the Museum and maintain the historical display in the cottage.

A baby change table was installed in the disable toilet with the assistance of our handyperson team of Harold Gibson, Bob Harris and Peter Merlino.

Harold Gibson did a fine job giving the Trust's lawn mower a very important service so that it continues to operate every week manicuring the lawn.

The Tea Rooms had their electrical board upgraded to three phase with a new cable installed underground from the private pole located on the eastern side of Reserve. This will enable the Tea Rooms to expand its kitchen

facilities and equipment.

The Trust's people counter has now been operating for the past seven months and it has recorder over 72,000 people passing through the Lighthouse entrance. Over the 2017 Christmas and Boxing Day period it recorded an average of 700 people visiting the Grounds daily and the following weeks in January 2018 it registered 500 people daily. This can be extrapolated to equate to 148,000 visitors annually!

The Trust is looking into a wide range of infrastructure development for 2018 and beyond. It is presently holding discussions with a civil engineer to draw up concept plans for the Reserve that will amongst other things, extend both the western and eastern car parking, correct the disable ramp to meet the Australian Standard and opening public access to the WWII bunker.

The wooden ramp from the western car park will be widened in February and March to allow large electric wheelchairs a wider turning area so they have access to the Reserve, thanks to a \$5,000 grant.

**Kevin Griffey**

### BIRDS AROUND THE BASE

#### Summer Visitors

Three common summer migrants to eastern and northern Australia are the Eastern Koel, the Channel-billed Cuckoo and the Dollarbird. These birds arrive from Island to the north of Australia in September to breed, and then depart north again in March the following year. They are all resident in Port Stephens during summer and all are known for their loud intrusive calls. None of these birds are threatened.

Eastern Koel (*Eudynamys orientalis*). The Eastern Koel is probably the best known of these birds. Many readers will have been woken early on a summer morning by the incessant, slow, monotonous "quow-ell, quow-ell, quowee, quowee" call of the male bird in a nearby tree as it advertises its territory.

The Eastern Koel is a large, brood parasite cuckoo, 40-46 cm in length. One of its most striking



features is the extreme sexual dimorphism exhibited by mature birds. The mature male is entirely iridescent blue-black with a prominent red eye and thick, cream-grey bill. The female has glossy brown upperparts, heavily spotted with white, and a black crown. The underparts are generally buff-cream with numerous fine black bars.

The tail is strongly barred brown and white. Young birds resemble the adult female, but have considerably more buff and a dark eye. Males take around four years to become totally black. Their food consists entirely of fruit, especially figs. Males noisily chase the females throughout the breeding season usually with a rapid call of "quowil-quooil-quoil-quoi-quoi". The females answers with a

series of rapid shrieking whistles, "quieek-quieek-quieek-quieek." Koels lay their eggs most commonly in Red Wattlebird nests, but also parasitise friarbirds, Magpie-larks

*(Continued on page 23)*

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*Suzanne (buyer)*

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Real Estate Agent  
0422 294 499



**Grace Bissett**  
Sales and Marketing  
Licensed Real Estate Agent  
4984 4700



## BIRDS AROUND THE BASE

(Continued from page 21)

and figbirds. A single egg is laid in the host's nest and when hatched, the chick forces the other eggs and hatchlings out of the nest. Both the markings on the egg and the call of the young cuckoo are designed to mimic that of the cuckolded species and ensure successful rearing of the young cuckoo. Once it leaves the nest the chick calls incessantly to be fed and will eventually grows to twice the size of its foster parents. Eventually, it



migrates northwards, usually later than the adults, to return as a breeding bird the following spring.

**Channel-billed Cuckoo (*Scythrops novaehollandiae*).** The Channel-billed Cuckoo is the largest of all known parasitic cuckoos. It is 58–65 cm in length with a massive pale grey, down-curved bill with a prominent groove. Plumage is grey, darker on the back and wings with black flecks, and with a long barred grey and black tail. Its unique profile in flight has seen it called the flying crucifix or the flying walking stick. Young Channel-billed Cuckoos have more mottled buff, brown and grey plumage. They are notorious for calling all night during the breeding season and, because they arrive before the summer storm season, are sometimes known as the Storm-bird. The call is loud, raucous squawking “awrrk, aworrk, oirrk, oik-oik-oik” with many variations. The favoured foods of the Channel-billed Cuckoo are native figs and fruits, though some seeds, insects and even baby birds are also taken. These cuckoos prefer to parasitise Pied Currawong nest, but Australian Magpies and members of the crow family are also targeted. The behaviour of their

nestlings is similar to that of the Eastern Koel. In the 1950s Channel-billed Cuckoos were largely unknown in residential areas and were restricted to the native forests. However as Pied Currawong have adapted to urban life in recent years, the cuckoos have followed.



**Dollarbird (*Eurystomus orientalis*)** The Dollarbird gets its unusual name from the prominent white spot on the underside of each wing, which are said to resemble silver dollars when in flight. Dollarbirds are often seen perched on bare branches of trees that extend above the forest canopy or over water. In suburbia it is typically seen perching on television aerials. From these sites it launches to hawk flying insects with skilful acrobatic flight. Insects are grabbed in the bill and brought back to the perch, where they are eaten.

The Dollarbird is the sole Australian representative of the Roller family, so named because of their rolling courtship display flight. It has a length of up to 30 cm. It is basically dark brown but is heavily washed with a bluish-green sheen on the back and wings. Its belly and undertail are light coloured, and it has glossy bright blue colouring on its throat and undertail. Its bill is short and wide, coloured bright orange-red with a black tip. It has a very distinct rapid cackling call. The birds breed in unlined tree hollows, with both parents incubating eggs and caring for young. The same nest site may be used for several years.

**Neil Fraser  
Twitcher**

# 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: [lighthouse.weddings@yahoo.com.au](mailto:lighthouse.weddings@yahoo.com.au)



## LIGHTHOUSE WEDDINGS



30 November, 2017 -  
Dinah and Erin Blake from  
Melbourne. And their Guests from  
many parts of the world.

8 December, 2017 -  
Miranda and Nick Hillard  
of Merewether, Newcastle



### WEDDING CO-ORDINATOR

Our last three Weddings of 2017 enjoyed beautiful Port Stephens weather, with guest coming as far as St Lucia, Jamaica and England, their accolades about The Inner Light Views were enthusiastically given to us. We now start 2018 off with three weddings in February and our Wedding Quota for the year, now full. We are taking 2019/20 bookings.

Thanks again to all our helpers.

**Jenny Fitzsimons**



16 December 2017 - Joy and  
Graham Warben-Lovell of Valentine,  
Newcastle

# Inner Light Tea Rooms

*at the Lighthouse*



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  - \* 19th Century cottage and memorabilia
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7.30am—2pm Saturday  
Closed Sunday

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## 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**

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

### SOCIAL EVENTS

The Xmas Party in the Crows Nest room at Nelson Bay Bowling Club was a HUGE SUCCESS. All 65 available seats were taken up by members and partners, and the meal was sensational. The Beef Medallion was the most tender I've had in many years, and the Barramundi was firm and juicy. Great compliments to the chef(s) on the day.

Many of you responded so well to my challenge to come dressed in your Xmas finery, with the chance to win one of the two door prizes. However, the past master of "Santa Suiting" outdid you all (again) this year, and walked away with the Best Dressed Male prize once again. Congratulations Eryl Thomas.... You were magnificent in your full Santa outfit, and fully deserved the prize once again (you must have been spurred on by being pipped at the post by Keith Dykes last year!).

Congratulations also to Sarah Charters for winning the Best Dressed Female – another well-deserved prize. Many thanks to John Reid for donating the two bottles of

wine as prizes, from his own cellar (I believe he now only has thirteen pallets left, so he could become our best friend!!!).

Your Social Committee has planned another series of events for 2018, which is shown in the table below. While we are aiming to achieve the dates set out, there may be some final corrections as we progress through the year. We'll let you know in plenty of time to make your arrangements.

If any members have suggestions for new and interesting venues or events, please feel free to let either myself or Frank know, and we'll see if we can fit it into the planning.

Best regards, and we look forward to seeing you all soon.....

**Laurie Nolan & Frank van Druten**



### MRPS Social Committee 2018 schedule

Month	Date	Event	Comments
APRIL	Wednesday 11 April	Bingo Night	- At Senior Citizens Hall, Norburn Ave Nelson Bay - No upfront cost - Make a table, bring some friends
JULY	Wednesday 25 July	Mid-year Dinner	- At a venue TBA
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 26 September	Trivia Night	- At Senior Citizens Hall, Norburn Ave Nelson Bay - No upfront cost - Make a table, bring some friends
OCTOBER	TBA	Adventure Outing	- At a location TBA
DECEMBER	Tuesday 18 December	Xmas Dinner	- At a venue TBA

### Year 2018 Public School Holidays

Autumn Holidays	16-Apr-18	27-Apr-18
Winter Holidays	9-Jul-18	20-Jul-18
Spring Holidays	1-Oct-18	12-Oct-18
Summer Holidays	24-Dec-18	28-Jan-19



## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

# Service Anniversaries

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

### FEBRUARY

Rod REESON  
Peter PHILLIPSON  
Shirley CLARK  
Ross DEBENHAM  
Brian CARROLL  
Eileen KELLY  
Russell CRAIG  
Marian CHAPPEL  
Bill HASKELL  
Robert JOHNSON  
Ian DRUMMOND  
Lee UEBERGANG  
Graeme ABBERTON  
Mick MILTON  
Peter HOLMAN

31  
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4

Karyn MILLER  
Trevor BRIGHTON  
Wayne NEWTON  
Penny AMBERG  
Deborah NOLAN  
**MARCH**  
Maureen WHEATLEY  
Brian WHEATLEY  
Keith DYKES  
Mark LACEY  
Michael DUGGAN  
Laurie NOLAN  
Betty TRICKETT  
Penelope HIGHLAND  
Angus MACKENZIE

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Peter DENTRINOS  
Lisa LODDING  
Claude XUEREB  
Heather PERRY-COMLEY  
John BATES  
Adi SAMI  
Peter YOUNG  
Rex ATKINS  
Alan CARR  
Irene WALKLETT

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# Happy Birthday

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

### FEBRUARY

Mary GUTRY  
Peter FITZSIMONS  
Mike PIERPOINT  
Brian RICHARDSON  
Robert HARRIS  
Krystyna WINSLOW  
Pete LINDWALL  
Neil FRASER  
Bob CROSS  
Angela TILLING  
Ben VAN DER WIJNGAART  
Bob COGHLAN  
Trevor MOXHAM  
Julie CHAUNCY

Ross CAMBOURN  
Penny AMBERG  
Peter MERLINO  
Seleana POWELL  
Julie PICTON  
Gary DUCKETT  
Casandra BUTTERWORTH

### MARCH

Geoffrey MOORE  
Arthur HEILER  
Malcolm MILLIKEN  
Carol BASTICK  
Narelle FISHER  
Tony O'DONNELL

Marian CHAPPEL  
Denise OLSEN  
Ross DEBENHAM  
Peter YOUNG  
Denise TAYLOR  
Laurie NOLAN  
Steve CHAUNCY  
Stephen HARRIS  
Di LUCAS  
John VASSALLO  
Alan CARR  
Heather HASKETT  
Mark LACEY  
Lisa LODDING  
Jay LYNCH

# PORT STEPHENS WEATHER

## Nelson Bay, NSW - December 2017

Date	Day	Temps		Rain mm
		Min	Max	
		°C	°C	
1	Fr	19.5	25.4	0
2	Sa	19.9	24.4	0
3	Su	16.9	27.6	4.5
4	Mo	18.2	22.8	0
5	Tu	17.5	22.2	0.6
6	We	13.1	24.4	0
7	Th	17.6	29.5	0.8
8	Fr	19.2	27.9	0
9	Sa	19	24	0.2
10	Su	17.5	26.1	0.1
11	Mo	18.5	26.5	0
12	Tu	19.4	26.3	0
13	We	19.3	26.4	0
14	Th	19.9	28	0
15	Fr	20.8	26.7	0
16	Sa	20.5	27.1	0
17	Su		26.5	0
18	Mo	20.4	27.1	0
19	Tu	20.5	31	0
20	We	21.5	32	0
21	Th	19.9	22.6	6
22	Fr	20.2	25.6	0.8
23	Sa	20.8	26.5	0
24	Su	21.2	28.7	0
25	Mo	20.3	22.7	4.6
26	Tu	17.3	24	5.1
27	We	19.4	26.9	0
28	Th	19.3	26.6	0
29	Fr	20.8	28.5	0
30	Sa	22	29	2.3
31	Su	22	26.1	2

### Statistics for December 2017

Mean	19.4	26.4	
Lowest	13.1	22.2	0
Highest	22	32	6
Total			27

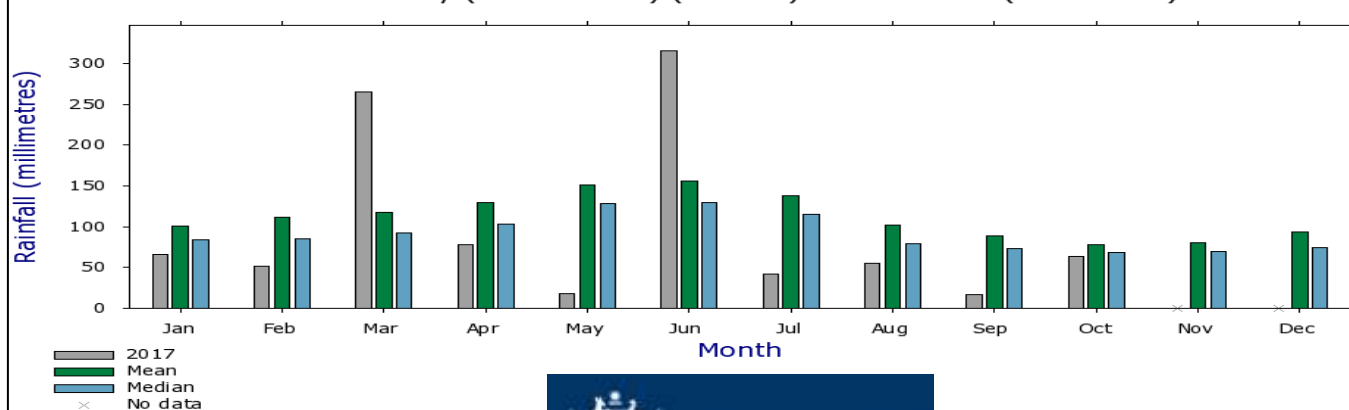
## Nelson Bay, NSW - January 2018

Date	Day	Temps		Rain mm
		Min	Max	
		°C	°C	
1	Mo	20.7	29.2	0
2	Tu	22	28	0
3	We	21	25.8	0
4	Th	20.1	26	0
5	Fr	18.5	26.2	0
6	Sa	20.1	27.4	0
7	Su	21.9	32	0
8	Mo	22.2	28	0
9	Tu	21.8	27.5	5
10	We	19.8	27	24.9
11	Th	20.5	26.5	1
12	Fr	21.9	27.5	0.1
13	Sa	23.6	32.5	0
14	Su	17.5	22.3	0.3
15	Mo	15.8	22.1	12.2
16	Tu	18.5	22.9	0.2
17	We	15.3	23.2	0
18	Th	16.7	25.9	0
19	Fr	17.4	25.8	0
20	Sa	18.4	27	0
21	Su	19.5	26.4	0
22	Mo	20.7	27.4	0
23	Tu	21.3	28.5	0
24	We	22.2	29	0
25	Th	21.1	28	0
26	Fr	24	28.3	0
27	Sa	23	28.8	0
28	Su	22.8	27.9	0
29	Mo	22.7	28.1	0
30	Tu	21.2	28.3	0
31	We	20.5	21.8	

### Statistics for January 2018

Mean	20.4	26.9	
Lowest	15.3	21.8	0
Highest	24	32.5	24.9
Total			43.7

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



Note: Data may not have completed quality control



## IN APPRECIATION....

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

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

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

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		Chemmart Pharmacy, Nelson Bay
	Doctors	Port Stephens Medical Centre, Keel St
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<b>Restaurants and Cafes</b>		Rock Lobster Seafood – D'Albora Marinas
		Inner Light Tea Rooms, Nelson Head
<b>Radio Station</b>		Port Stephens FM 100.9



## NEXT MEMBERS MEETINGS

**TUESDAY 13 February 2018**

and

**TUESDAY 13 March 2018**

*All Members  
Welcome*

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

Important information on operational matters will be discussed.

Food and refreshments will be provided.

## MARINE RESCUE NSW PORT STEPHENS RESCUE VESSELS CURRENTLY IN SERVICE

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

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

### PORT STEPHENS RESCUE VESSEL *PORT STEPHENS 31*

#### *JOHN THOMPSON*



#### Specifications

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

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

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

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



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



**Specifications:**

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

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

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

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



Teramby Road, Nelson Bay  
 Phone: 02 4984 1333  
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