

# PORT CHATTER

MARINE RESCUE NSW  
PORT STEPHENS UNIT

JUNE 2017





## MARINE RESCUE NSW – PORT STEPHENS UNIT

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## VOLUNTEERS SAVING LIVES ON THE WATER

### UNIT APPOINTMENTS

**Patrons:** Kate Washington MP, State Member Port Stephens  
Meryl Swanson MP, Federal Member Paterson  
Stephen Bromhead LLM MP, State Member Myall Lakes  
Dr David Gillespie MP, Federal Member Lyne  
The Hon Bob Baldwin

**Unit Commander** Lee Uebergang  
**Deputy Unit Commander** Neil Hansford

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Ashes Scattering Coordinator

Rescue Vessels Manager

Chief Engineer

R.F.S. Liaison

Coxswains

Sue Freeman

Noel Corcoran

Barney Pinney

#### Finance

##### Treasurer

Assistant

#### Community Relations

##### Community Relations Officer

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Asst Editor Port Chatter

Marine Radio Service Database

Social Committee

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Unit Photographer

#### Education and Training

##### Unit Training Officer

Training Systems Officer

Assistant Training Systems Officer

Rescue Vessels Training Officer

Course Presenters:

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Mick Milton

Graham Pretty

#### Welfare / Liaison

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##### Harold Gibson

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#### Protocol Officer

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Peter Baldwin

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Vacant

Peter Fitzsimons

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Jenny Fitzsimons

Vacant

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

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

**Advertising** enquiries are welcomed. Contact the editor at [editor.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au](mailto:editor.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au) for more information.

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

**Cover Photographs** - Geoff Clark and Stephen Alta



## 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 June 2017 edition of Port Chatter.

My contribution to this edition will be short .... I'm penning this from a deck chair beside the pool at a resort in Trou aux Biches on the island of Mauritius. Please don't tell Dawn .....

As usual there has been a lot happening most of which is covered in separate reports. The last two months has been dominated by funerals ..... and I'm very proud to report that on each occasion the Unit has honoured its members that have "crossed the bar" with large attendances at the funerals and a well dressed Guard of Honour. The respect we've paid to those Members and their families has been noted with numerous very positive comments made to Harold, Neil, me and others. . The eulogy I delivered at Graham

The contingent marched under the Marine Rescue banner and consisted of Dave Rogers, Eryl Thomas, John Reid, Steve Harris, Colin Couper, Noel Corcoran, Peter and Jenny Fitzsimons, Trevor Moxham (Banner bearer), Laurie Nolan, Bob Young, Matt Doyle, his son Logan, and



myself. A highlight of the day was when an elderly spectator sought me out after the parade to praise Marine Rescue Port Stephens for quote "being the only contingent that actually marched properly!!". Marching on ANZAC Day is now a well established practice and helps us remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and thank those returned service men and women for their service. We also remember and thank those still serving especially our own current serving ADF members. Hope to see more of you



there in 2018.

That's enough for now.

Thanks for your support.

**Lee Uebergang**

**"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally"**



Pretty's funeral is published further on in this edition as is the eulogy delivered by Peter Phillipson ESM at Ray Calvert's funeral.

### ANZAC Day

Since 2013 members of MR Port Stephens have participated in the ANZAC Day commemoration activities in Nelson Bay. The Unit provided a contingent of 14 marchers at the Nelson Bay parade on ANZAC Day this year.





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## FROM THE BRIDGE..... AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

### DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER

In addition to the Community Relations Officer duties it has been a busy month for the Deputy Unit Commander filling in for the Unit Commander, who has taken long overdue family leave outside of Australia.

During late May, I attended the UC and DUC conference at Central Coast.

Lee and I have been trying for many months to get resolution of a number of items such as the provision of appropriate heavy duty wet weather clothing for our rescue vessel crews to protect them from exposure to hyperthermia in extended cold and wet conditions. Hopefully there is an end in sight that will mean MRNSW will either contribute to the cost or provide in full. Failing that we will go ahead and use some of the donations received to buy a minimal share set ourselves as a Unit.

In our region, there are two SARC's, namely Port Stephens and Lake Macquarie. During June, we will host the Lake Macquarie Unit executive to exchange ideas with your Executive. Since we have so much contact on EOTS etc. with MRLM this should enhance our co-operation even further. If this is as successful as Lee and I think it will be, we will promote the possibility of the same event with Forster Tuncurry. This was an MRPS initiative.

We are almost complete with regard to determining how we will provide internet services to the base after the NBN roll out. We expect that by late June we will have a high speed fibre to the node (FTTN) service that will dramatically improve the speed of our facilities such as Seahawk. The speed being contracted allows us to

consider the provision of a very high magnification camera to show the entrance to the Bay - and which we would commercialise to bodies like TV stations and RMS as well as having live on our website.

We have applied for a grant to install a back-up to the NBN over "air fibre" to give us high speed fidelity for our communications.

Many of you have shown concern that 27MHz channels were not recorded on the Voice Recorder. IT Officer, Lee Ryman has developed and built an interface that allows our current 27MHz sets to be connected to the Voice Recorder. This has saved your Unit over \$10,000 by not having to resort to putting the radios on the ReadTalk system. Lee Ryman we salute you!

An analysis of our 27MHz activity was conducted, backing out Station ID etc. and the net effect is that only around 15% of our radio activity is on 88/98 channels. This is unlike units like Lake Macquarie and Central Coast who have much more inshore activity.

Congratulations to the social team of Laurie, Frank and the two Debbie's who ran a very enjoyable and profitable Bingo night that was very well attended.

Dee Gilliland has agreed to project manage the 35th Anniversary Dinner Dance to be held on 4th November 2017. This will be a major fund raising night. Dee will be looking to form a committee to assist her. This night will be very important to the Unit

Also, I am working on the securitisation of our tenure on Nelson Head - with some success.



### COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER

April/May was the end of the major boating season fund raising.

April was a big month for us to get volunteers out in the market and collecting before the Winter hibernation:

- 1 April was a new Event at Founders Day of St Phillips College. This event was affected adversely by the wet weather. Many of the attendees hadn't been exposed to Marine Rescue.
- 3-9 April, we were at Sail Port Stephens every afternoon from 16:00 -18:00 to rattle the buckets and sell raffle tickets for prizes donated by the promoters. We were the chosen charity. This was a major event with over 120 yachts from around Australia competing over the week.
- On 3 April delegates from Women Who Sail Australia came up to look at the base as their 3-day conference ended. On 2 April Richard Pizzuto spoke to the delegates about the January 2016 rescues of yachts. We were really gratified that we received a donation of \$4,100 from these delegates.
- We will be at BCF on 9 June to cook at their free

member's barbeque and will be collecting donations.

- Next date for the Seafood Raffle at Nelson Bay Bowling Club is 9 June. Three members required.

There's more!

We have three dates in September, October and November to do the Bunnings barbeque. More details closer to the agreed dates.

#### NEW Unit Polo Shirts selling well

By the time you read this we will have already sold 50 Port Stephens non-iron Polo Shirts that can be worn other than on duty. Full range of sizes available from Margaret Morrison on 0419 198188. These are being sold to members at their cost to the Unit - \$20.

#### Donation Boxes

We have found four more sites for our collection boxes.

Steven Alta is now co-ordinating this worthwhile fund raising activity. If you know a site where the business primarily deals in cash, please leave a message for Steve at the base.

Our largest collection point is the Comms Centre where

*(Continued on page 9)*

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### APRIL MONTHLY MEETING



Shirley Clark and Lee Uebergang with the cheque from the Gift shop.



Guest Speaker Mick Duggan.



## COMMUNITY RELATIONS..... AND OPERATIONS

(Continued from page 7)

the good "sell" is really being rewarded.

### Grant Applications

June will see the outcome of many of our applications for Grants.

Most significant is a very substantial grant application to construct barge mounted dock facilities to provide essential storage for our crew and vessel equipment. This application is with Clubs NSW Port Stephens.

We have applied for additional Grants for additional electronics to complement those on PS31 and to provide broadband high speed backup for the base.

We were successful in getting two Commonwealth/State training grants to acquire our own advanced resuscitation teaching tools and funding for membership advertising for the next two years. This was announced by Scot MacDonald MLC.

Additional Grants have been lodged with Port Stephens Council. Many Grant schemes are drawn to our attention but in many cases, we don't qualify as they are related to health and welfare outcomes.

### AWARDS Ceremony video

We had the Courage Award ceremony filmed from start to finish.

A copy of the Ceremony is available to members at cost of \$10. This is designed as a memento in addition to the Special Edition of Port Chatter that has been circulated. Orders may be placed with the Unit Commander.

### GIFT SHOP

Another great performance by the ladies who presented significant cheques at the April and May Mess meetings. The commitment shown by the ladies is a credit to all of them as they want to always better what they did over the busy Christmas period. The shop and its stock have never looked better - which is reflected in the sales.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Facebook content generated continues to be shared with more people.

If you have pictures and stories why not send them to [pr.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au](mailto:pr.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au).

### NEW WEB SITE

The Unit web site has had a makeover. Go to [www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au](http://www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au) and see all the new features such as the direct weather feed from the base, What's on Willy Weather, Fishing Reports from Duff's Salamander Bait and Tackle, a live feed from Facebook every 10 minutes, recent obituaries for those that have crossed the bar and links to sites you may need to use.

In addition, the Members Area link at the base of the home page will take you to rosters (updated bi-weekly) and the training calendar. The webmaster, Peter Baldwin is adding additional members-only training content all the time. If you want the password for the Members Area just send an email to Peter at:

[rosters.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au](mailto:rosters.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au)

I am sure you will see our focus on getting members and donations. All our advertisers and supporters are now exposed on the site. You should support them as they support your Unit. Get in the habit of logging on each week or so - if for nothing else than the Latest News.

### PUBLIC RADIO COURSES

We expect to start our public SROCP Radio Courses in July.

Dave Rogers has prepared the USB presentation and lecture notes and this course will be run at a convenient Club location on Saturday mornings to overcome parking problems at the Base.

Students will be required to pre-learn the handbook, assisted by the Powerpoint presentation - then come for three hours of live revision followed by the external examination.

The course, including all examination fees and material will be \$220 per student.

In addition to being a support to the boating community, it will be a fund raiser.

Nigel Eves has agreed to administer the enrolments and course administration.

Watch for the announcements in the press, on 100.9 PSFM and on the website.

## ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISING CELEBRATION



2017 is a milestone year for Marine Rescue Port Stephens. On 2 November we will have achieved 35 years of uninterrupted service to the boating community of Port Stephens and to celebrate this anniversary we plan to kick up our heels up with a major fundraising event.

Marine Rescue Port Stephens started life as a division of the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol way back in 1982 with

20 dedicated members operating out of a caravan located on Nelson Head. They remained in that caravan until 1984 when they moved into the old World War II bunker at the same location and by 1985 membership had grown to 100. In 1993, almost ten years after it was founded, the division moved into the current premises.

Many changes have occurred over the years. Premises have been enlarged, equipment upgraded and the organisation name has changed. In 2010 the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol merged with all other marine rescue organisations in NSW to form Marine Rescue NSW which operates under the control of the NSW Police Marine Area Command. Membership has continued to

(Continued on page 11)



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## OPERATIONS .....

(Continued from page 9)

grow and today we have 210 members working in many varied roles, still serving the community with the same dedication as those original 20 members.

To mark this historic occasion you, your family and friends are all invited to join your Marine Rescue colleagues and

our donors, sponsors and patrons at the **Marine Rescue Port Stephens 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Dance on Saturday 4 November**, so put the date in your diary and dust off your dancing shoes!

More details coming soon...

**Dee Gilliland**

### OPERATIONS OFFICER

This section of Port Chatter covers our core operations of the Radio Base, the Boats and those unsung members who work behind the scenes acting as the communications conduit between our Radio base, the Duty boat Skipper, our Boat Crew and the Nelson Bay Water Police. They are locally called the Duty Callout Officers or DCO's.

If a vessel is in distress for any reason, the Radio Base calls the DCO - no matter what the time. They then follow well established procedure of informing the Nelson Bay Water Police and, if we are tasked to go out and assist, getting a crew assembled as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile the Watchkeeper at the radio base is free to deal with the situation and advise the Marine Area Command of the Water Police in Sydney.

These are procedures which work well and serve the boating community in and around Port Stephens.

During the months of March, April and May our Radio Base handled 44 incidents on the water (anything from an overdue vessel to a flare sighting to boats calling for assistance including a Mayday call).

Over those months our boats have been tasked 15 times to assist those in trouble on the water.

One of those tasks involved a crew being called at 1am to assist a yacht that was disabled and drifting north of Broughton Island. The conditions were very uncomfortable. However PS31 located the vessel and towed it to safety.

Many of the calls to our radio base for assistance are handled by the Nelson Bay Water Police. One such call during the month was from a vessel which had a medical emergency. A fish hook had lodged in an eye of a person

on board. The Water Police assisted quickly and arranged for an ambulance to meet the vessel once back in the Bay.

During May the barquentine Southern Swan took refuge in the bay due to some nasty weather conditions. She is 40 metres in length. She was anchored in the Western end of Shoal Bay. During the night the crew found they could not start their motor - so Marine Rescue was asked to assist in getting the starter motor to a local Auto Electrician for repairs. PS30 did the job. Not good to have a vessel that size unable to manoeuvre in a close situation.

Boat Crew training continues no matter what the weather. Night training also figures in our training schedule.

It is good to see so many new faces under



*Southern Swan*



*NSW Water Police Vessel 'Nemesis'*

training at the Radio Base. We hope our new members are enjoying their time in serving the boating community and helping make our waterways safer.

This month PS31, John Thompson, will turn one year old. She is an amazing vessel and has saved many lives already.

Finally we have said farewell to Mike Smith, one of our decorated Skippers who is moving to Queensland. Mike, we will miss you.

**Tony O'Donnell**





## PORT STEPHENS MEDICAL CENTRE

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**Dr Steve Illiadis** BSc MBBS (FUSA). Dr Illiadis also practices full-time in our surgery. His special interests are surgical problems, Skin Cancer, Sports Medicine and Children's Health (Pediatrics).

**Dr Michael O'Donoghue** BSc (NSW), MBBS Dip Av Med, DAME. Dr O'Donoghue performs part-time sessions in our surgery. His special interests include Aviation Medicine and Occupational Medicine.

**Dr Douglas Routley** BMed (Hons), FRACGP. Dr Routley is a gastroenterologist and visits our surgery fortnightly. His specialties include diseases of the digestive system and the liver.

**Australian Hearing Services** provides hearing assessments and the fitting and repairing of hearing aids. They have sessions at our surgery weekly.



## OPERATIONS ....

### LOSS OF CHARTER VESSEL KUNARA



On Friday, 19 May the charter vessel Kunara was lost at Nelson Bay due to fire. Marine Rescue Port Stephens would like to say how sorry we are to our friend Jim Booth the operator of Kunara. The good side of the story is that Jim was not hurt.

Kunara and Marine Rescue go back a long way.

Kunara Fishing Charters was a long time advertiser in this publication.

We have extended assistance to Kunara a couple of times and once Kunara towed in our Rescue Vessel Girralong when it experienced mechanical problems.

A sad loss to the sea landscape of Port Stephens.

*(Congratulations to the Nelson Bay Water Police and the RMS Crew who averted a major catastrophe by their quick actions)*



### SKIPPER MIKE SMITH HEADS TO QUEENSLAND

One of our very popular and highly decorated Skippers, Mike Smith, is heading to his new home in Queensland. A sad time for Marine Rescue Port Stephens.

Mike gave 15 solid years' service to the boating



community. He joined the RVCP in 2002. During that time Mike held a number of Executive positions. He was a Watchkeeper and Coxswain for Marine Rescue.

He clocked up 3,200 hours of service in the Radio Base and a further 3,100 hours as boat crew.

Mike was the Skipper of Danial Thain on April 21, 2015, when he and his crew rescued the crew off Reef Dragon in the cyclonic winds of a serious east coast low. The crew and Mike were recognised for their bravery by being presented the National Search and Rescue Award for 2015.

Again last year Mike was acting as 1st Officer and Engineer on Danial Thain during the attempted rescue of M3 off Seal Rocks. It was during that night that Danial Thain was knocked over three times. His cool demeanour in such terrible conditions, along with the skill of the Skipper Ron Lighton and the bravery of Laurie Nolan and the rest of the crew, saw Danial Thain safely (but somewhat battered) back in port.

Mike, along with the rest of the crew, was awarded the Commissioner's commendation for Courage and Laurie Nolan the first ever Medal of Valour for his bravery on the deck of Danial Thain.

These are just a few of Mike's stories. We are truly losing a skilled member and most of all, a very nice guy. Good luck Mike and Sandy on your next adventure.



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## CROSSED THE BAR

### **RICHARD "JOHN" SMITH OAM**



John, a Certified Chartered Accountant, will long be remembered as the member who ensured that Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol/ Marine Rescue NSW kept sound financial accounts as well as fulfilling the role as Honorary Treasurer or Auditor to volunteer organisations across Port Stephens.

John was a tireless servant to not only the community in Australia

but he also took his accounting and computer skills into the developing Pacific Island Nations as part of the Australian Aid Programme. He was honoured with an

Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for this work.

In addition to being a Watch Officer from before the new Base was opened, John also made the first radio broadcast from the new facilities in 1990.

John served as the Honorary Divisional Treasurer and Company Secretary of Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol NSW and took RVCP into the early MYOB computerised accounting systems.

John served on the Nelson Head Lighthouse and Rescue Station Reserve Trust for many years and assisted the Ladies Auxiliary in the operation of the profitable Gift Shop. In addition he served for many years on the Unit Executive.

John is survived by Pam who is still a Marine Rescue member and can be seen in the Gift Shop doing her weekly duties.

### **ALAN HUDSON OAM**



Few Unit Commanders have ever left such a long-term legacy to be remembered by.

Alan Hudson OAM was Unit Commander at Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol Port Stephens Division from 1988-90 and his term will be remembered for his untiring efforts in having initiated and overseen the construction of the E C Dunne Command Centre that stands proudly on Nelson Head today and serves as the Radio Base,

Gift Shop and Administration and Training facilities for the Port Stephens Unit.

Alan was also successful in having the Unit appointed as the Trustees of the Nelson Head Reserve and Lighthouse Trust.

Outside his passion in "saving lives on the water" Alan was a Legatee for over 60 years, having launched Port Stephens Legacy.

Alan crossed the bar aged 93. Alan's wife Shirley, his partner for 70 years, died suddenly just 3 weeks before Alan.

Alan was an Active Watchkeeper and Search and Rescue Response Co-ordinator.

Alan was a strong minded, determined officer and a gentleman totally committed to his Church and Community.

A large contingent from Marine Rescue Port Stephens saw Alan laid to rest.

### **GRAHAM ERNEST PRETTY JP**



Graham Pretty was a great example of "if you have a job to be done, give it to a busy man".

Graham gave service to Marine Rescue for over 12 years as a Senior Watch Officer, mentor, Assistant Training Officer, WPHS Officer, Security Officer, First Aid Trainer and Radio Course Presenter.

During this time, he was also very active in the Communications Area of the Rural Fire Service at Lower Hunter Fire Communication. In addition he was involved

with Nelson Bay Rotary, Masonry, his church and of course, his family.

Before moving to Port Stephens Graham, a private pilot, had been a driving force in the Scouts Aviation Wing being formed at Camden Airport.

Graham was a Fellow and the President of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services (NSW Division) and Justice of the Peace.

Graham is survived by Jill, his childhood sweetheart in the UK, their three sons, wives and grandchildren.

Graham was farewelled by over 250 colleagues who provided a Guard of Honour consisting of Marine Rescue Port Stephens, Rural Fire Service and Scouts NSW.

"May the seas be calm, the winds fair as you cross the bar on your next journey"

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### RAMON GEORGE BRACKEN CALVERT



Or Ray as he was always known by his friends and colleagues, was a great friend, colleague and confidante.

Ray was born in Sydney on 31 August 1940 and educated at Hamilton South Public School and Newcastle Technical High School when his family moved to Newcastle and then to Port Stephens in 1956.

Ray always wanted to be a fisherman and spent many of his younger years with his mate Glynn Tarrant out at the lighthouse at Fingal or at the Inner Light at Nelson Head. He often talked about those times and the freedom he had there. Sheer Grit, a wonderful book on the hardships experienced by the grit collectors and fishermen on Fingal Island during the depression and written by Arthur Murdoch, a man Ray considered to be part of the family, was often the subject of our discussions. It opened my eyes to the history of the island for my many exploration trips to this beautiful part of Port Stephens and provided an understanding of the freedom Ray must have felt during his time there.

Ray's family were connected to the Inner Lighthouse dating back to 1894 with the familiar respected and well-known local names of Glover, Lambourne, Priest and Lund families. Henry Lambourne was Ray's Great Grandfather and his Grandmother was married from the Inner Light.

There was a time when Ben Norburn, a well known boxing and wrestling referee, persuaded Ray to take up boxing, which he did, but when his mother found out about his newly found career her wrath was much more potent than any knockouts in the ring, so needless to say that ended Ray's fighting career in quick time.

Ray became an apprentice fitter and turner with BHP, a trade in which he excelled - and was given an important position as a trainer at the apprentice training school after completion of his time as an apprentice.

The opportunity to move onto a more challenging and exciting career arose with Titan Mining Equipment in Queensland, so Ray jumped at that opportunity. He became the Sales Service Mining Technical Engineer, originally based in Brisbane and subsequently Rockhampton. His territory was Australia, a big patch for a big man, and he stayed with Titan until his retirement. His experiences in that position were fascinating and the characters he often described were straight out of a movie. A tough business for tough people and Ray certainly fitted that description.

Ray, always dedicated to volunteering, was a founding member of Fingal Bay Surf Club where he became Surf Boat and Club Captain in 1968 and an honorary member in 1969. He was also a volunteer fireman at Nelson Bay before moving to Queensland.

During his time at Rockhampton, Ray became an active member of the Rockhampton Apex Club and when retiring and leaving the area was given life membership. He also became active with the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard at Yeppoon, Flotilla 171, which gave him an excellent taste of things to come with the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol on his return to Port Stephens.

On returning to live at Nelson Bay after retirement, he and Deidre lived in the family home on Tomaree Street.

Following the sale of the family home a few years later they both moved to Fingal Bay where Deirdre cared for Ray in the months before his move to Harbourside Haven. Both Louie and Deirdre cared deeply for Ray and ensured he was visited daily at Harbourside Haven, taking him out regularly in his mobile wheel chair to enjoy the fresh sea air and beautiful Shoal Bay.

Ray joined the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol in 1996 and went from strength to strength. Being born and raised in the area there was not much he did not know about it and he brought a wealth of local and boating knowledge with him.

In his early days in the Patrol, he was very busy with his Radio Room and Boating duties. Ray became active in the Administration area and took on the role of Administration Officer. He is remembered as someone who was very willing to pass his boating knowledge onto his fellow members of the Patrol and also for his impeccable record keeping.

Within three years of service, Ray took on the highly responsible position of Divisional Commander overseeing, very successfully, over 150 active volunteers. His responsibilities covered all aspects - including the coal face operations 24/7, which included manning of a state-of-the-art radio room and the crewing and operations of an all-weather lifeboat. Plus, he took responsibility for the associated training, education, recruiting, finance, administration, fund raising, maintenance and management of the Trust.

He was a great leader and led by example. His ability to be able to delegate key responsibilities to the right people was one of the keys to his success.

Following on from his role as Divisional Commander, Ray was elected to serve on the Board as a Director of the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol and altogether served eight years in that position. I was fortunate enough to be on the Board with Ray for a few years and our early morning starts at 0400 for the drive to Sydney in his big burgundy four wheel drive in order to make the 0800 monthly board meetings were always something to look

*(Continued on page 18)*

## CROSSED THE BAR....AND PRESENTATION OF LONG SERVICE MEDAL CLASP (20 YRS) TO RAY CALVERT

*(Continued from page 17)*

forward to, particularly on a freezing winter morning. Four hours to Sydney you may ask, but Ray liked his breakfast and our stops at the Caltex half way house were not just for a coffee and a biscuit.

During my time as Officer Commanding of the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol, the major objective of the Board and the Executive was a single maritime rescue organisation. Ray was an integral part of this very robust three-year process and his support on the Board was vital for its success. His down to earth views and ability to recognise the hogwash so often presented was invaluable.

Ray always had a keen interest in the Inner Light Cottage with his family connection together with his memories of his boyhood days spent there, so it was only a matter of time before his energy was being utilised by the Inner Light Trust. He spent a number of years as Chairman of

the Trust and the management of the Trust went from strength to strength under his stewardship.

Ray's commitment to volunteering was total. Ray was a big man with a big heart always there to give a hand when needed. A man who had definite views, often black and white, no shades of grey with Ray and he always stood by his principles.

It was indeed a special occasion a few weeks ago when our Unit Commander Lee Uebergang presented Ray with his 20-year clasp for his long service medal. It meant so much to him but it's now time to say goodbye and to celebrate his life with all his many friends gathered here today.

Rest in peace dear friend.

**Peter Phillipson**

One of the more rewarding and satisfying aspects of being the Unit Commander is the opportunity to present honors and awards to Unit members.

On 1st of May, Dawn and I visited Ray Calvert in Harbourside Haven to present him with his first clasp to his Long Service Medal recognising 20 years' service to volunteer Marine Rescue. What was initially intended to be a low key presentation to Ray in his room soon escalated to a presentation in the lounge area of Harbourside in front of his sister Deidre, Louise Moore, Peter Phillipson ESM and 20 other friends, relatives and residents.

Unfortunately Geoff Moore, who is also a resident, was unable to join us for the presentation.

Upon arrival at Harbourside we found Ray resplendent in his Navy/White uniform and Deidre in Blues - both with medals. We moved to the lounge area where I made a speech recognising Ray's service to both Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol (RVCP) and Marine Rescue and highlighted his achievements as Divisional Commander from 1999 to 2001, which included oversight of the arrival of the new Rescue Boat - PS40 Danial Thain. Ray subsequently served on the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol Board of Directors in Sydney.



*Lee Uebergang, Ray Calvert  
and Peter Phillipson*

I then handed over to Peter Phillipson ESM who provided further detail of Ray's achievements and work he put into the amalgamation of Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol, Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association and Volunteer Rescue Association's marine fleet into "Marine

Rescue NSW". Peter and I then presented Ray with his clasp set and certificate. The presentation was followed by morning tea with Ray, the guests and residents.

Peter and I had a good chat with Ray about the 'ole days' and the challenges that face MR Port Stephens today. Ray was alert and appeared to

thoroughly enjoy the presentation and trip down memory lane. It would have been the last time he wore his uniform. Sadly Ray passed on 18 May.

*"May the seas be calm, the winds fair as you cross the bar on your next voyage".*

**Lee Uebergang**



## CORPORATE SERVICES GROUP

### ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

A new refrigerator has been installed in the Command Centre kitchen enabling us to keep all food/drink on the one level with easy access in the kitchen; thanks to Jenny and Peter for all of their hard work.

The new MRPS web site is up and running with a lot of new features. If you haven't already done so check it out at [www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au](http://www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au). Our Rosters Officer, Peter Baldwin, has put up the Radio Room and Cottage rosters on the Members section of the site (right down the bottom). If you require the password for these rosters please contact Peter on [rosters.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au](mailto:rosters.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au) and he will send this to you.

The supply of uniforms from HO for new and current members has been very slow recently and we have suffered long delays. A batch of outstanding orders was received recently so that should clear most of the backlog. If you are still waiting on uniform orders please contact our Supply Officer, Margaret Morrison on [morbel1@bigpond.com](mailto:morbel1@bigpond.com)

Our Membership team of Loris Webster and Steve Harris continue to be very busy with inquiries and inductions of new members. There were 21 new members accepted in March and April with a further 15 prospective members going through induction in April. We currently have around 209 members with many new members going through their LROCP and SARCCOPS courses.

There are some big developments coming up in the Technical Services area - led by the DUC and IT staff – more about this in the next issue.

As you will have seen we now have yellow non-slip strips on all of the external stairways making them much safer particularly in wet weather. Repairs have been carried out to some external down-pipes and additional shelves built in the basement cage area for additional storage for Gift Shop stock. Our Building and Facilities Coordinator, David Bacon, has submitted his resignation as he and Yvonne are moving to Melbourne to be closer to family. Thanks David for all of your hard work over these past months and good luck for your new life in Melbourne.

We are now looking for a new Building and Facilities Coordinator, so any member with building or carpentry experience who would like to take on this job please contact me so that we can get you started in this very important role.

John Smith has been appointed as our new Security Officer and has already started working on a number of outstanding issues. We are developing a Fire Emergency Plan for the Nelson Head site which will cover all issues such as fire extinguishers, hoses and hydrants, smoke alarms, fire alarm and emergency evacuation procedures. This plan will be finalised in the next few weeks and will be circulated to all members on completion.

**John Reid**

### RFS LIAISON

The months of March and April, 2017 have been quiet on the RFS side due to favourable weather conditions. What is of Interest is the number of house fires, caused by the attempts to ward off the cold weather.

#### STATISTICS FOR MARCH, 2017

Trees down 3; pile burn 1; rubbish fires 2; automatic fire alarms 13; car fires 15; tree fire 1; bush fires 4; motor vehicle accidents 7; community first responder 6; smoke report 1, yard fire 1; house fire 1; structure fire 1; wires arcing 1; dishwasher fire 1; unknown 1; rubber fire 1; grass fires 4: Total 65

#### STATISTICS FOR APRIL, 2017

Community fire responder 5; bonfires 2; house alarm 1; car fires 10; automatic fire alarms 2; motor vehicle accidents 7; wires arcing 1; rubbish fires 3; bush fires 6; structure fire 1; house fires 5; unknown fires 2; pile burn 1; grass fire 1; tyre fire 1; tree fire 1; pole fire 1; yard fire: Total 51



#### NEW CAT 1 AT SOLDIERS POINT

The old Cat 1 truck at Soldiers Point Brigade has been replaced

by a brand spanking new one. The members were out inspecting it on the driveway last Saturday morning.

#### PAGING OF BRIGADES

It must be remembered that when an incident is in progress the brigades must be paged within three minutes of receiving the fire call from Fire and Rescue. Don't call the Duty Officer prior to paging the brigades. Activating the brigades speedily is especially important in life threatening situations such as house fires and CFR calls.

**CREATURES OF HABIT:** The photo below was taken at one of the burning grounds used on a regular basis by those lovely little "gentlemen" who regularly destroy cars on a Friday or Saturday night. These two cars were torched on consecutive Friday nights in the Woodbury area. What a waste!

**Ross Debenham**



## CROSSED THE BAR....

### EULOGY FOR GRAHAM ERNEST PRETTY



This morning we are here to remember and reflect on the life of Graham. My name is Lee Uebergang and I'm the Unit Commander of Marine Rescue Port Stephens. I've been a member of Marine Rescue Port Stephens for over five years and had many dealings with Graham in that time in his many capacities as a mentor in the Communications Centre, a trainer and an officer of Marine Rescue Port Stephens. In the next few minutes I'll attempt to enlighten you on Graham's work with Marine Rescue Port Stephens and the dedicated manner in which he performed his duties.

Graham joined the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol Port Stephens unit on 21 October 2005. I'm guessing, but I suspect he was retired at that time. He Achieved The Rating Of Marine Radio Operator in 2008 and Watch Officer in 2010.

Graham was a very loyal and dedicated member who became very involved with all of his maritime duties. He was a senior Watchkeeper and was always on hand to train new members in Communications Centre duties and procedures. Night shifts were never a

problem to Graham as he was always first to volunteer to fill vacancies in the roster for the all night shifts.

Because of Graham's involvement with the Rural Fire Service, he became very involved in training Communications Centre staff in the correct procedures when dealing with Rural Fire Service incidents. His association with both Marine Rescue and the Rural Fire Service meant he was the ideal man to train Marine Rescue staff in Rural Fire Service procedures.

A few years ago as I was preparing to become a Watch Officer I remember asking Graham if I could 'shadow' him on a night shift - in order to get experience with the Rural Fire Service radio procedures. We sat together for about four hours chatting away waiting for the fire call that didn't come. I left him at about 11pm. We didn't achieve my training aims that evening but we did get to know each other a bit better.

Graham held senior positions in the unit's management team as:

The Unit's Assistant Training Officer

The Occupational Health and Safety Officer

The Security Officer

A First Aid Trainer

A VHF Radio Course Presenter

Graham held a Certificate Four in Workplace Training and Assessment which was very useful in his training roles.

Some of you may know that Graham was a Fellow and the President of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services NSW Division. He was also a Justice of the Peace.

Graham had a knee replacement in May 2015 which slowed him down - mainly due to the stairs that lead up to the Communications Centre. He also requested leave in March this year due to health reasons but remained involved in the project to establish an Emergency Operations Centre at the base until just recently.

*(Continued on page 21)*



## CORPORATE SERVICES GROUP

Graham's passing was a great shock as most of us were unaware just how ill he was. Graham was always approachable and never too busy to assist others. He will be sadly missed.

Graham dedicated 10 years of his retirement to Marine Rescue as well as many years to the Rural Fire Service. Graham's years of service saw him involved in handling many requests from persons and vessels in distress while he was on both day and night shifts. His presence in the Communications Centre at those times undoubtedly saved lives and property on both sea and land. That is a very significant contribution to the community in which he lived

and should never be forgotten.

Graham was awarded the Marine Rescue NSW five year service pin in April 2011 and the long service medal for ten years' service in November 2015.

*"May the seas be calm, the winds fair as you cross the bar on your next voyage"*

Rest in peace.

**Lee Uebergang**

8 May 2017



Sunrise from the Comms Centre



View of Nelson Head from Tomaree Head

### COUNSELLING SERVICE

Marine Rescue has access to the RFS counselling service, the Critical Incident Support Services (CISS). If after a critical incident (rescue vessel, radio, elsewhere) you feel you need help contact the CISS on 1800 049 933. Use of the service is **fully confidential between the member and the Counsellor. It is not a sign of weakness to ask for support – it is a sign of strength.**



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## WELFARE & WOMEN WHO SAIL PRESENTATION

### WELFARE OFFICER

Well, very nice to be able to report that Jenny and I have not heard too much about our members on the Sea Sick List over this past month.

Jenny informs me that this is because all of our members 'like herself' are far too busy with Marine Rescue duties to be on our Sea Sick List.

However, we have had a few reports from some members who have not been sailing quite as well, as they would like to be.

**Kevin Lanyon** has been off the scene for a few weeks and a call put out to Kevin revealed that he is waiting to have some surgery performed on both of his feet, that in his words 'Have done a lot of miles - both land and sea miles'. All the best Kevin, yes sounds like it is time to go up on the slipway for a check over. All thinking of you and look forward to your return to duty.

**Maureen Wheatley** had a very worrying time recently and was taken to the local hospital by husband Brian. I believe that Maureen was in very good hands with Brian's training in first aid at Marine Rescue. He was able to support her with the her condition until she reached hospital. All is now well Maureen said, but her condition at the time was quite uncomfortable and worrying. Well done Brian with those years of refresher first aid training, we never know when we may have to use it.

**Rod Reeson** has also been missing from the base recently and one had to do a lot of sea miles to track him down. Rod reports that he has not been sailing quite as well as he would like to, however all fine and he and wife Sue have been away on a well deserved trip up North.

**Neil Hansford**, our own DUC, has been in the wars. If you attended the May mess meeting you would have observed the large dressing that Neil had on his head. Also he was not jumping around full of the life that he normally has. No, Suzie did not take to him for been home late from the base. Actually, Neil is very lucky to

have come off as light as he did, after a very nasty fall at the base. Neil was coming down the stairs from the radio room when his shoe was caught on an item on the step. This caused him to have a very heavy, not to mention frightening fall.

I am sure that those steps would have had a close examination by many after this incident. All the best Neil. I am sure all members send their best wishes that all is ok for you.

### Crossed The Bar

Over the past three months we have had some very sad times at our unit with the passing of four members.

**John Smith OAM** - a long time serving member of R.V.C.P./Marine Rescue .

**Alan Hudson OAM** - third serving commander at Port Stephens when we were R.V.C.P.

**Graham Pretty** - who had been a very active member at Port Stephens for many years.

**Ray Calvert** - our 9th serving commander of Port Stephens R.V.C.P./Marine Rescue and long serving member.

Some of the history of these late members has been documented elsewhere in this publication and supplied to Marine Rescue HO for inclusion in the next issue of 'Soundings'.

I would also mention that Alan Hudson had just lost his wife Shirley, three weeks before his own passing. This certainly was a very sad time for our longer serving members from Coastal Patrol days who knew both Shirley and Alan so well.

To the families of our four members who have now crossed the Bar, I am sure that I speak for all and pass on our sincere condolences in these very sad and trying times.

**Harold Gibson**



### PRESENTATION

A big thank you to the organisers of "Women Who Sail" who presented the Unit Commander Lee Uebergang with a \$4814.00 cheque for the unit. This was half of the funds raised by the event at Port Stephens and was shared equally with Sailors with Disabilities.

*Photo: Robert Johnson, Lee Uebergang, Shelley Wright, Ines Thomas, and DUC Neil Hansford.*

# Lighthouse Weddings



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

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



## LIGHTHOUSE WEDDINGS



The April 9 afternoon wedding for Melissa and Steve Wood from Tingara Heights was enhanced with the addition of vessels from Sail Port Stephens.



A lovely afternoon wedding for Niki and Troy Stead of Sydney on 20 May.



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## LIGHTHOUSE TRUST AND LIGHTHOUSE WEDDINGS

### LIGHTHOUSE TRUST COMMITTEE



The Trust Sub-Committee continues to meet each month and attend to the maintenance and repair around the Reserve.

As you will have noticed, Port Stephens Council Traffic Committee has installed additional 'No Stopping' signs on both sides of Lighthouse Road. This was as a consequence of vehicles parking on both sides of the road and blocking vehicles ascending and descending the Lighthouse Reserve and Marine Rescue Port Stephens Search and Rescue Co-ordination Centre (SARCC).

The annual termite inspection indicated that it was the first time in 10 years that no active termite activity was detected in our buildings. The Trust and Marine Rescue annual fire safety inspection met Port Stephens Council and Australian Standards.

### Girl Guides Visit

The local Girl Guide Troop thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Museum and MR Base on Saturday 1 April 2017. The Troop was divided into three groups. The first visited the Museum



and was given a guided tour by Peter Fitzsimons, the second group visited the Operations Room with Jenny Fitzsimons and the third visited the Training Room and were reminded about children's safety on small boats. They were instructed in using PFDs, V sheets, VHF radios and EPIRBs.

### St Philip's school visit

60 Year 9 students from St Philip's school visited the grounds on 30 March 2017. Their assignment was to complete a questionnaire on the importance of Port Stephens during WWII. Paul Farnhill and Dennis Corr presented information, historical photographs and a film to the students to complete their questionnaire.

**Kevin Griffey**



## IT HARDWARE REPORT AND GIFT SHOP

### IT HARDWARE OFFICER



#### New Medical Alert Dialler

A new medical alert dialler has been installed in the operations room, located on the top shelf between the left and middle operator consoles.

Two emergency call pendants are available for members to wear whenever they desire. The pendants are located in the:

- **Command Centre** – Hanging in the key locker
- **Gift Shop** – Hanging above the telephone

When either of these pendants are triggered, the medical alert dialler will call the following officers' mobiles and play a recorded message asking for help:

1. **WHS Officer**
2. **Unit Commander**
3. **OPSO**
4. **DCO**

It will also sound a loud alarm and message in the Command Centre – helpful if assistance is needed in the Gift Shop.

Whoever answers can activate a speakerphone and talk to those in the operations room if desired (by pressing \*).

### Activating the Emergency Call

To activate the emergency call, squeeze on the two red buttons on either side of the pendant...

If you are in the operations room, you can also activate the emergency call from the dialler unit itself by pressing on the large red circular button with rotating indicator light



### Cancelling a Call

To cancel a call, press the yellow button on the front face of the pendant, or the large red circular button on the dialler.

### Live Weather Observations on the Website

After many days of work we now have live weather observations on the website. If you are interested in what the weather is doing at any particular time just logon to the website: [www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au](http://www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au) and navigate down the page to see the live cam and weather details.

### Voice Recorder Interface

The Voice Recorder Interface for 27Mhz radio has been developed and tested as working. We are awaiting on a final connector to connect it permanently to the radios.

**Lee Ryman**



I would like to offer a big thankyou to Denise Olsen for stepping up for me whilst I was on holiday. She has done an amazing job for the past five weeks, also a big thankyou to Lorraine Shaw for doing such a great job with the stock requirements. Thank you girls. We have several new ladies wishing to join us shortly. The Gift Shop is still having very good results. Looking forward to seeing you in the shop

**Sandra Scheuber**





## SOCIAL EVENTS

### SOCIAL EVENTS

The first official Social Event for 2017 was the BINGO Night, at the Community Hall in Norburn Ave Nelson Bay on Tuesday 2 May. It was a great success with over 50

members and friends attending. Our experienced Bingo caller Matt Darby (well, he had done it ONCE before) was unavailable due to a work conference in Sydney, so we called on our "Go-To" Master of Ceremonies Frank van Druten at short notice. What a revelation – the lad's got talent! As Tony O'Donnell says... "Frank is amazing... He makes a mistake and just keeps on talking as though it was intentional!!!!".

I forget who won all the games, but boy.... did we have some prizes!!! All thanks to Trevor Moxham's wife Sandi, who donated a whole raft of primary and secondary prizes that she had won at Bingo games over the past few months. Many, many, many thanks to Sandi – your generosity gave us a very professional look to our efforts.

With the first Bingo card in every game FREE, everyone was able to participate very economically. However, we were selling Extra cards in each game if players were

keen to have a better chance while at the same time contributing to the MRPS coffers. This, combined with the Gold Coin Bottle Throw game, managed to raise over \$300 towards the cost of running our MR Unit.

This was a great opportunity to get your friends along to a Marine Rescue event – and everyone had a fabulous time on the night. I can thoroughly recommend attending the next one. However... in the meantime, we have a few other Social Events planned, including a couple of dinners and the Trivia Night later this year. Check out the dates on the Social Events Calendar in this issue of the Newsletter.



**Laurie Nolan &  
Frank van Druten**

### MRPS Social Calendar - 2017 schedule

Month	Date	Event	Comments
JULY	Wednesday 19	DINNER Night	- At a venue TBA - Theme TBA
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 13	TRIVIA Night	- At Senior Citizens Hall, Norburn Ave Nelson Bay - No upfront cost, but side-games require "gold coins" - Make a table, bring some friends
NOVEMBER or DECEMBER	Dates TBA	ADVENTURE Outing	- Details TBA... but planned to be a fitting sequel to our Broughton Island Eco Walk of last year - Anyone with a "special request" or "good idea" is encouraged to discuss with Laurie Nolan.
DECEMBER	Tuesday 12	XMAS Dinner	- At a venue TBA

#### Year 2017 Public School Holidays

Winter Holidays	1-Jul-17	17-Jul-17
Spring Holidays	23-Sep-17	8-Oct-17
Summer Holidays	16-Dec-17	29-Jan-18



## BIRDS AROUND THE BASE

### BIRDS AT THE BASE - Masters of our skies.

Bird's adaptation for flight has allowed them to exploit the skies and the forest canopy, to travel rapidly over large distances in search of food and to evade earth bound predators. The adaptation for flight has involved the development of many unique features including the skeleton, muscles, wings, feathers and physiology. Flight is energetically expensive and requires a light, streamlined body and a rigid structure.

The skeleton of birds is made rigid by the fusing together of bones to provide a firm structure for attachment of flight muscles. Bones are lightweight and strong with a hollow, honeycomb-like structure. Further weight reduction is achieved by the use of air sacs instead of lungs, and having a lightweight toothless bill instead of a heavy, bony jaw. There is a single vent for waste elimination and reproductive purposes and female birds have a single ovary.

The breast bone is enlarged with a large keel for flight muscles attachment. The main flight muscle, the pectoral muscle, accounts for about 15% of a bird's mass. Contraction of this muscle produces the downward wing beat and provides the thrust required for flight. Muscles have a high percentage of red muscle fibre that has a high capacity for oxidative metabolism of fat and sugar. Birds have highly efficient respiratory system and circulatory systems which keep tissues well supplied with oxygen and nutrients, supporting a high metabolic rate. Their metabolic rate during flight is the highest of all animals. Body temperature is maintained between 40 and 42°C and enables cells in the muscles to work around 2.2 times faster than mammals. The higher body temperature is maintained through the insulating properties of feathers.

To control flight, birds' brains are proportionately larger than those of reptiles and amphibians, allowing them to perform complex tasks. The eyesight of birds is the best of all vertebrates and excellent eyesight and a large brain is essential to provide the coordination to fly and land safely.

The bones of the bird wing are analogous to the human arm. The humerus, radius and ulna are shortened with their joints provide flexibility for wing movement, while the hand bones and digits

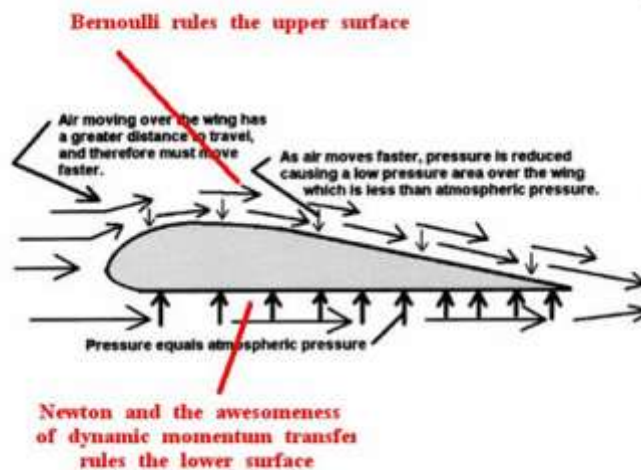
are fused to provide the rigidity in the wing.

The most obvious adaptations for flight are bird's wings which produce power for flight and provide lift. Feathers are light and strong with a central hollow shaft and vanes arranged asymmetrically on either side.



Wings and feathers are shaped in the form of an aerofoil.

An aerofoil provides lift through a combination of two physical principles. Air flowing over the upper surface travels faster than air over the lower surface, creating reduced



pressure on the upper surface relative to the lower (Bernoulli's principal), and air deflected downwards from the lower surface produces an opposite upward-directed force (Newton's third law). However the downward deflected air is also the source of drag which is one of the limiting factors of flight. Additional lift is obtained from the tail feathers and from the inward spiralling vortices created at the wing tips.

Manoeuvrability is achieved by independently changing the orientation of the wings to create variable drag or thrust, and/or by using the feathers at the wing tip to alter the trailing vortices. During take-off birds achieve the initial thrust required for flight by leaping from height and using gravity, or running along the ground and using prevailing wind. The wing beat rate required during the initial period of take-off is much higher and once sustained flight has been achieved the wing beat settle into a natural oscillating frequency which optimises energy use. Birds land by using their wings to create increasing amounts of drag and eventually stall as they land. No aircraft even approaches the average bird's manoeuvrability.

*(Continued on page 31)*



## BIRDS AT THE BASE CONTINUED

There are two basic types of flight, gliding flight and flapping flight. All birds utilise varying degrees of these methods.

Gliding flight minimises the use of powered thrust to

overcome the negative effects of drag while flapping flight provides thrust. Large birds such as hawks, eagles and pelicans which

utilise open skies, have long narrow wings with slots at the ends, allowing them to glide efficiently using air currents and thermals. Fast flying birds using open habitats such as falcons have slim un-slotted wings and mainly use flapping flight with some gliding. Small birds that utilise enclosed habitat have short, rounded wings that allow rapid take off and high manoeuvrability. They rely almost



entirely on flapping flight. Other moderate sized birds that use a range of habitats tend to have broader wings of intermediate dimensions with slots and use a combination of flapping and gliding.

So the next time you are dismembering the Christmas chicken or a turkey, have a good look at the structure of its bones and muscles and appreciate the amazing adaptations that have occurred to produce the wonder of bird flight.

**Neil Fraser**

**Twitcher**



# Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following members of the  
PORT STEPHENS UNIT  
with birthdays in June and July

### JUNE

John ALMGREN

John KERR

Kev LANYON

Kevin ABLESON

Russell CRAIG

Suzanne REESON

Betty TRICKETT

Bill HASKELL

Deniece GILLILAND

Elizabeth FRANCIS

Dave JACK

Tony DAWSON

John BATES

Deb VAN DRUTEN

Yvonne BACON

### JULY

Di BAILLIE

Rod REESON

Valerie BENNET

Colin FOOTE

Eddy VAN DYKEN

Barney PINNEY

Jenny FITZSIMONS

Barry TIMMINS

Mike GROVER

Iain BLACKADDER

Steve PICTON

Ann MATHON

Jose LOPEZ

Jessica LIGHTON

Zoe EVES

## PORT STEPHENS WEATHER

Nelson Bay, NSW - April 2017					Nelson Bay, NSW - May 2017				
Date	Day	Temps		Rain	Date	Day	Temps		Rain
		Min	Max				Min	Max	
		°C	°C	mm			°C	°C	mm
11	Tu	15.5	20.7	0	1	Mo	14.7	23.8	0.4
12	We	17.3	20.5	11.8	2	Tu	16.1	24.8	0
13	Th	16	21	26.8	3	We	15.7	20	0.8
14	Fr	15	22.6	7	4	Th	15.5	20.5	3.4
15	Sa	15.5	24.2	0	5	Fr	15	22.4	0.1
16	Su	16.3	23.8	0	6	Sa	14.4	21.6	0
17	Mo	17.1	23.6	0	7	Su	15.4	21.5	0
18	Tu	16.1	23.7	0	8	Mo	14.2	21.6	0
19	We	16.7	24.6	1.6	9	Tu	13.2	19.5	0.4
20	Th	17	24	1.2	10	We	13.3	19.7	0
21	Fr	16.8	24.4	0.1	11	Th	13.5	20	0
22	Sa	18.8	25.5	0	12	Fr	14.2	21.6	0.8
23	Su	17.5	24.5	0	13	Sa	16.8	21.9	0
24	Mo	16.9	25.5	0.1	14	Su	16.6	19.8	1
25	Tu	18	27.3	0	15	Mo	14	18	3
26	We	18.3	24.3	6.1	16	Tu	12.9	19.1	9.3
27	Th	13	17.5	1.8	17	We	12.3	21.3	0.2
28	Fr	13.5	19	1	18	Th	14.3	23.2	0
29	Sa	12.5	22.4	0	19	Fr	16.9	20.8	2.3
30	Su	14.3	21.6	0	20	Sa	17	23.8	4.2
Statistics for the last 20 days of April 2017					Statistics for the first 20 days of May 2017				
Mean		16.2	23.1	3.0	Mean		14.8	21.2	1.3
Lowest		12.5	17.5	0	Lowest		12.3	18	0
Highest		18.8	27.3	26.8	Highest		17	24.8	9.3
Total				57.5	Total				25.9

# Anniversaries of Service

Congratulations and thanks to all the above members who have given their time and service as volunteers so willingly. Our existence depends on it.

### JUNE

Mike BROWN 20  
Geoffrey MOORE 18  
Nigel WATERS 18  
Harry McNAMARA 11  
Dave JACK 9  
Neil HANSFORD 8  
Andrew MACLACHLAN 8  
Kevin GRIFFEY 8  
John VASSALLO 6  
Robyn WINTER 6

### Narelle FISHER

Tim BOYLE 4  
Christine RYNNE 3  
Stephen MURRAY 2  
Julie PICTON 1  
Deb VAN DRUTEN 1  
Lyndall DAY 1  
David GOUGH 1  
Jay LYNCH 1  
**JULY**  
Loris WEBSTER 5

### Colin FOOTE

Garry JENSEN 4  
Lynne JENSEN 4  
Peter MILLER 4  
Tom MILLER 4  
Angus STUART 3  
Gary BELL 1  
Andrew TELLEY 1  
Ian JACK 1  
Jose LOPEZ 1



## IN APPRECIATION....

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

Ross Debenham, Neil Fraser, Harold Gibson, Dee Gilliland, Kevin Griffey, Neil Hansford, Laurie Nolan, Tony O'Donnell, Peter Phillipson, John Reid, Lee Ryman, Sandra Scheuber, Lee Uebergang and Maureen Wheatley. Other photos by Stephen Alta, Ross Debenham, Jenny Fitzsimons, Neil Fraser, Neil Hansford, Tony O'Donnell and Penelope Highland. 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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		Soldiers Point Marina
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<b>Restaurants and Cafes</b>		Rock Lobster Seafood – D'Albora Marinas
		Inner Light Tea Rooms, Nelson Head



## NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

**TUESDAY - 13 June 2017  
and  
TUESDAY - 18 July 2017 - AGM**

*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  
 Fax: 02 4984 1390  
[www.dalboramarinas.com.au](http://www.dalboramarinas.com.au)



*“have you visited d’Albora Marinas Nelson Bay recently?....*

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

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Blue Bay Collections	02 4984 4763	Noakes Boatyard	02 4984 4150
Boat Hire and Cruise Bookings	02 4984 3843	Nelson Bay Nice Kitchen	02 4981 5883
Broughtons at the Bay	02 4981 0865	Pacific Water Colours	02 4984 1922
Cafe and Convenience on the Bay	024981 0921	Pizazz Boutique	02 4984 4177
Corner Secrets	02 4981 1160	Popeyes Laundromat	02 4984 1333
Hogs Breath Cafe	02 4984 2842	Rock Lobster Restaurant	02 4981 1813
R Marine Port Stephens	02 4984 2355	Sandbar Seafood	02 4984 3777
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