

PORT CHATTER



JUNE 2019

MARINE RESCUE NSW PORT STEPHENS UNIT

'Volunteers Saving Lives on the Water'





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

OUR GOAL

To be the most effective Marine Rescue Unit in NSW

OUR PRIMARY FOCUS

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

MARINE RESCUE NSW – PORT STEPHENS UNIT SERVICES PROVIDED



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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UNIT COMMANDER'S REPORT AND DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER

UNIT COMMANDER

Our prime focus of course is to keep two Rescue Vessels on the water and our Comms Centre open 24 hours per day. Sounds simple but it takes the dedication and commitment of close to 200 volunteer members to enable



us to meet this objective.

As seen in this issue of Port Chatter our rescue vessel crew have been involved in a number of challenging incidents. We never know the nature of the next call to our Comms Centre and the conditions that our Rescue Vessel crew need to operate in. Most of what our Radio Operators, Crew Call Out Officers and Rescue Vessel Crew do is generally unseen by the Community but deserves full recognition for keeping the boating public safe in all weather, 24/7.

To ensure that we can keep all of this happening we continually need to raise funds to finance our operations. As well as our Fundraising Team being involved with the Community wherever possible, our Gift Shop Ladies keep our shop open seven days a week, always with a welcoming smile on their faces and a wide range of products to entice purchasers.

And of course, the cottage grounds always looking

immaculate, thanks to our maintenance team and the Trust Committee management.

In addition to Saving Lives on the Water, Marine Rescue Port Stephens is proud to be able to support another Volunteer Emergency Service in the Hunter Valley and Lower Hunter RFS Regions. We support the RFS by taking over the Communications every night, calling out Brigades and monitoring all calls until they are safely back at their base. An outstanding Volunteer Emergency Service that we are pleased to be associated with.

In any organisation it is important to reflect on where we came from and how our culture was established. It was a delight to have Rod Reeson, one of our former skippers and Divisional Commander of Port Stephens Coastal Patrol to join us and talk about his experiences and challenges including the final selection and sea trials in England of our previous Rescue Vessel Danial Thain. Great to have you with us



Rod and we will continue to have our long term members join us and remind us of our heritage.

We were also delighted to have Gino Pin the senior captain of the Riverboat Postman, based in Brooklyn, at our most recent meeting. Gino enthralled us so much with his tales of the Hawkesbury and his time in Port Stephens that our Social Club have organised a trip on the Hawkesbury for 50 of our Members and partners in August.

So winter is now with us. A slightly quieter time on the water but often more challenging Incidents requiring our members to assist those in need. Ongoing training during this period is critical for our Unit to be prepared for whatever the next tasking may be.

Stay Safe.

Colin Foote

"Volunteers Saving Lives on the Water"



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DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER... CORPORATE SERVICES

DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER

Thanks to Harold Gibson and our ground maintenance members the Girralong Display has been move to the



Construction of the Girralong Display

rejuvenated John Thompson Garden. The original display now holds two propellers from Danial Thain and an original anchor. This is especially important for those who served on PS40 Danial Thain from 1999 to 2016. All crew members appreciate that PS40 has a place of longevity within the Nelson Head Lighthouse Reserve.

Macquarie. Both his parents jumped in to save him, and all were rescued by our Deputy Commissioner Dean Storey, myself and other Lake Macquarie members who were quickly on the scene.

This shows how important our regular training is on our rescue vessels, lifting the training dummy out of the water, when unexpectedly these skills automatically come into play, *Saving Lives on the Water*.

Peter Merlino

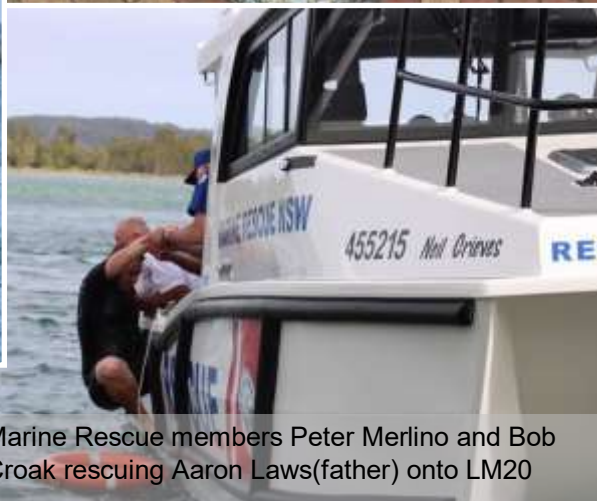


Danial Thain Display



LM20 Neil Grieves

Whilst the UC and I were attending the commissioning of Lake Macquarie new rescue vessel LM20 named *Neil Grieves* an 18 month old baby boy fell from a wharf only meters away into Lake



Marine Rescue members Peter Merlino and Bob Croak rescuing Aaron Laws(father) onto LM20

ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

The main objective for the Corporate Services group at this time of year until 30 June, is to have all our members who wish to contribute and have so willingly done so in the past, renew their membership, as required by the MRNSW Constitution.

The annual membership renewal project is a major operation and we thank Heather Haskett for her assistance in keeping tabs on those who reply. Heather, we are going to miss you.

And thank you to those who have already renewed. And

for those who have not done so yet. don't forget..

In the meantime, kudos to the wonderful Corporate Services group who in the background continue to ensure we comply, organise and maintain etc. so that our Unit functions so well.

Colin Couper

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS



Anzac Day 2019. Marine Rescue Port Stephens was proud to have 28 members in the local march (some still serving members in the defence forces).

Iain Blackadder

EMERGENCY APPS

Knowing where you are

On a Boat

It sometimes happens (not that common though) that a vessel needs assistance when those on-board are not able to pinpoint exactly where they are. This can happen if there is for example, an electrical failure which renders all electronic equipment useless. Even if the Skipper can give a general description of the position of the vessel, it would help the Water Police or Marine Rescue immensely to know the coordinates of the location. Valuable time can be saved in a life-threatening emergency.

Your mobile/smart phone may very well be able to assist you in giving those essential coordinates. There are several Apps you can load on your phone which can give these coordinates (and other helpful information). Some may already be loaded when you purchase the phone.

Here are 3 Apps which can help*:

- **Emergency +**
- **Compass**
- **Marine Rescue NSW Phone App.** (Every

Boat should have access to this free APP).

These Apps are not dependent on Mobile Phone Coverage for location information as they work off the GPS in your phone.

Elsewhere

These Apps offer you important information even if you are not on a boat. For example, if you had an emergency on a remote road you could give the Emergency Services the coordinates of your location which would assist them in finding you quickly.

* The coordinates are presented in different formats however that is managed by the Emergency Service.

Iain Blackadder





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COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Port Campbell

Our thoughts are with the family of the lost rescuers and the community in the Port Campbell area.

Father and son die after lifesaving boat capsizes while rescuing tourist near 12 Apostles.



A father and son who were volunteer lifesavers from Port Campbell, in western Victoria, have drowned after being thrown into rough surf while trying to save an international tourist.

Ross Powell, 71, and his son Andrew, 32, died during the rescue of a 30-year-old man who police said was wading at the mouth of the Sherbrook River when he got into difficulty



on Sunday morning.

Police said the six-metre rigid hull rescue boat was swamped in heavy surf conditions throwing three men into the water.

An emergency helicopter winched two men to safety — the man in the water and one of the rescuers, who was seriously injured.

The man who got into trouble was taken to hospital in a stable condition.

Training Opportunity

Every now and then an opportunity comes up for our boat crew to do something out of the ordinary and at the same time help a neighbour.

Recently, such an opportunity came up for Marine Rescue Port Stephens. One of our neighbours, a trawler needed assistance to be moved to the shipyard in our Marina - about 300 metres. We very often place disabled vessels in a berth. Today it was the reverse, we were asked to take the vessel out of the berth, raft it to PS31 and tug tow it to the slip. The trawler is 44' long weighing 19 tonnes.

All went to plan. Hardly was PS31 back at its berth when it was tasked to assist a 41' cruiser which had run aground on a sand bar close by.

Port Stephens Water police

Marine Rescue Port Stephens works very closely with our local Port Stephens Water Police. Recently, the Water Police undertook a difficult assist north of Broughton Island.



The Water Police assisted three males after their boat had capsized off Seal Rocks. The master of the distressed vessel was able to retrieve and activate the EPIRB, deploy flares and display a V sheet.

This is a timely reminder to not only check your safety equipment but know where it is and how it works.

The master said to police that "the EPRIB was worth every cent".

Another great example of safety equipment saving lives. If you go to sea, have you checked your safety equipment recently?

Preparing our Volunteers

First Aid Training and keeping current in the techniques is a key part of the training of our members. We never know when those learned skills will be called upon. It may be for a visitor to the comms centre, an injury on-board a boat our crew is rescuing or even for one of our own.

Recently, another First Aid course was run by our volunteer first aid trainers. Making the training as realistic and therefore as useful as possible is the focus of our trainers. Although the injuries look real, they



are not - however in real life in the future this exposure could/will be invaluable.

Iain Blackadder

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COMMUNITY SERVICES

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

On 11 May 1770, *HMS Endeavour* (also known as *HM Bark Endeavour*) under the command of Lieutenant James Cook, passed by Port Stephens on its passage north. Although the vessel did not enter, Cook named the bay after Philip Stephens, Secretary of the Admiralty.

The Endeavour was launched in 1764 as a Collier. It was purchased



by HM Navy in 1768 for a scientific mission to the Pacific Ocean 1768-1771. The rest is well known by the citizens of Australia and New Zealand.

Today 249 years later, Marine Rescue Port Stephens' vessel, PS31 (*John Thompson*) while conducting off-shore training, sighted *HMB Endeavour* (a replica of *HMS Endeavour*) sailing off the coast of Port Stephens (heading south). This time the Endeavour was flying an Australian Red Ensign. What a beautiful sight. What an amazing coincidence.

Iain Blackadder

JUST ANOTHER TRAINING DAY

Tuesday is a boat crew training day at Marine Rescue Port Stephens and like many Marine Rescue days, our crew never know what the day may bring as an interesting day unfolded.

A beautiful sight awaited PS31 when it departed the marina. A frequent visitor to the bay, *Young Endeavour*, was anchored outside the break wall. The young crew were exercising up



in the riggings. Character building.

Later in the morning, PS31 was contacted by the Comms Centre and tasked to assist a 64' cruiser which had experienced a failure to one of its two engines causing an inability to steer the vessel normally. It was agreed that PS31 would shadow the large vessel from anchor, into the D'Albora Marina and berth. The Skipper would use what steering he had available and PS31 would assist if required and raft the vessel. One of our crew went on board to assist with lines should that be required.

Due to the considerable skill of the Skipper of the disabled vessel, PS31 was not required to assist. All

ended well with the vessel being berthed ready for repairs.

Just another day!

Iain Blackadder



Scotland. In 1999 acquired by the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol Port Stephens and named *Danial Thain*. From 2010 with Marine Rescue NSW and finally from 2016 as a training vessel with ECA Maritime College in Brisbane.

A collage of Danial Thain in her different colour schemes. Clockwise from above, from 1978 with the Royal National Lifeboat Institute as *Spirit of Tayside* in Broughty





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Sandra Scheuber



Colleen and Shirley on duty

TRUST CHAIRMAN

Each year students from St Philip's Christian College Port Stephens Year 9 classes visit the Inner Light House and Museum to complete their assigned work sheets on the history of Port Stephens. In particular the role this area played in preparation for the landings on Pacific Islands during WWII. On 1 May the Trust Committee hosted and gave talks to 67 Year 9 students throughout the day.

Pre-schoolers from Karingal Pre-School Nelson Bay visit the Reserve each year. We are expecting them to visit on 4 June.

Unfortunately the Tea Rooms were broken into after hours on 26 or 27 April and again 3 or 4 May 2019. The Trust will improve its CCTV and fixtures to deter any future break-ins.

The Trust has completed its annual fire and safety



inspection required by Port Stephens Council and NSW Fire and Rescue.

Kevin Griffey



OPERATIONS

OPERATIONS OFFICER

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

When a distressed vessel calls for assistance out on the water, we are very proud of the proven systems we use to deliver that assistance both by the Comms Centre and by the Rescue Boats.

The guest speaker at the April Mess Meeting was former Marine Rescue Skipper and veteran of many rescues, Rod Reeson. Rod told us about some of the rescues he had been involved in from the early days of RVCP and Marine Rescue.

It is always sobering to remember that the systems and processes we use today have their roots in the work done by former Radio Operators and Boat Crews. We use the principles of Kaizen – small and continuous improvements.

So, our foundations are good and our task today is not to lose sight of the fine work those before us accomplished when we make those small but continuous improvements to what we do.

Let's have a look at the statistics of our operations:

It is obvious that our systems work and we know we slowly continue to improve those systems. There was an old saying "if it ain't broke don't fix it"

STATISTICS OF OUR OPERATION YTD APRIL 2019

Category	Statistic
Marine Incidents Managed by our Comms Centre	104
Our Boats were Tasked by the Water Police	43 Times
Managed RFS Incidents	438
Comms Centre phone Calls	6500
Comms Centre Radio Calls	5700

however I think there is a more powerful saying "if you ain't working on it - it must be broke". So, we learn from the past and remember where we came from however we are always seeking better ways of achieving our vision "Volunteers saving lives on the water".

Rescues

April and May have been very interesting months for the operation group.

On the night of 11 April, our vessels were night training – as was the new CHC/RAAF rescue helicopter. Our Comms Centre received a call from the Sydney Water Police that an EPIRB had been activated off Fingal Island. Our boats were tasked to immediately investigate. They arrived at the

same time as the helicopter. A yacht travelling north had run into rocks off Fingal Island and had sunk. The crew of three was rescued from the rocks by the helicopter in an amazingly short time – with two rescue vessels standing by. Happy coincidence that the rescue services were on hand so quickly.

One weekend saw PS31 tasked twice to rescue people at Broughton Island – a second tasking as the first was being completed. The first was a vessel with two adults and four young boys on board. Problem, lost steering on their vessel.

The next was a Kayaker who sustained damage while paddling through the Looking Glass.

Two days running PS30 and

PS31 were tasked to assist vessels with mechanical problems roughly in the same spot – one nautical mile east of Fingal Island.

On another occasion, just as daylight was fading, PS30 was tasked to assist a vessel, out of fuel in the Myall River shortcut with five young people on-



board. When our crew found them they were cold, wet and very happy to see the rescue vessel.

Before a tow can be set up, our Skipper has to consider all the safety issues involved with the tow – including the safety of those on board the distressed vessel. On three occasions since the last Port Chatter edition, we have taken people off towed vessels onto our vessel to ensure their

(Continued on page 17)

OPERATIONS AND PROMOTION & FUNDRAISING

(Continued from page 16)



safety.

The four young boys rescued from Broughton Island ended their fishing adventure with a ride on a Rescue Vessel. Such nice, interested kids.

Another vessel we assisted was a yacht with a faulty depth sounder. With a falling tide, they found themselves sitting in mud, unable to move. PS31 attended and assisted by taking some of the

people on board to a landing where they could access their car. The rest of the crew stayed on board and waited for the next high tide. Our Comms Centre monitored their safety throughout the evening. As a precaution, the crew of PS31 kedged the yachts anchor to ensure they did not drift back into close by rocks as the tide flooded.

PS31 exercised a number of times in April and May with the new SAR Helicopter from RAAF base, Williamtown. (A magnificent aircraft).

We also supported the Port Stephens Outrigger Regatta by supplying a safety boat (PS30) over two days.

This is just a sample of our operations. The Comms Centre and Boats work as a close team with the Duty Callout Officers organising crews and communicating with the local Water Police at the same time. It all works thanks to those who constructed the foundations of Marine Rescue Port Stephens in the past.

Tony O'Donnell



PROMOTION AND FUNDRAISING

April was a very big month for the Port Stephens Area with a huge number of activities happening in the area. Many were water related and Easter and the school holidays had the area overflowing with holiday makers.

Our fundraising/promotion team were out there letting all the boating and general public know what we do. We had a one day display at the *Trailer Boat Fishing Competition* that was well received, this year in fine weather! The promotional team continued last year's support of the Women Who Sail gathering in Port Stephens.

The Fundraising Team were active at Nelson Bay Bowling Club, Bunnings BBQ and Salamander Bay Shops over the last few months. A great effort was put in by all the team THANK YOU.

The drawing of our summer raffle was held on Easter



Monday, UC Colin Foote, DUC Peter Merlino together with Jennifer Dunn one of our new members drew the ticket at the Inner Light.

The winner Victoria, a local, was ecstatic as her husband has a kayak and she can now join him on our beautiful water ways well done to all our ticket sellers it was a great result.

Bunnings BBQ have given us an extra date due to a cancellation Sunday, 23 June so if you are available please sign up.

We also have one on 14 July so keep that date free.

Very soon we will have a short winter raffle in the Comms Centre and Gift Shop to be drawn in September.

Keep a look out on Sign Up for up and coming Promotion days.

Peter Young and the fundraising Team.

BOATS OFFICER

BOATS OFFICER

At this time of year there is a subtle change in the type of 'assists' that we are called upon for. There are still the smaller runabouts and cabin boats that run into problems. As well at this time of year as the autumn weather takes hold, they are joined by the increasing numbers of sailing mono and multihulls that take the opportunity to head North for the winter. Many of them call into Port Stephens on the way. A small number of them run into difficulties of one kind or another. As always, having both of our rescue vessels 'ready to go' at all times is critical to our mission.

PS30 Kodi K II

Our smallest rescue vessel gives us a rapid response capability in light to moderate sea conditions as well as the ability to operate into shallower water than is the case with PS31. Over the last two months she has operated reliably with only minor concerns over engine reliability.

PS30 is rapidly approaching the end of her service life with us and plans are being developed for the testing and evaluation of the various replacement options.

PS31 JOHN THOMPSON

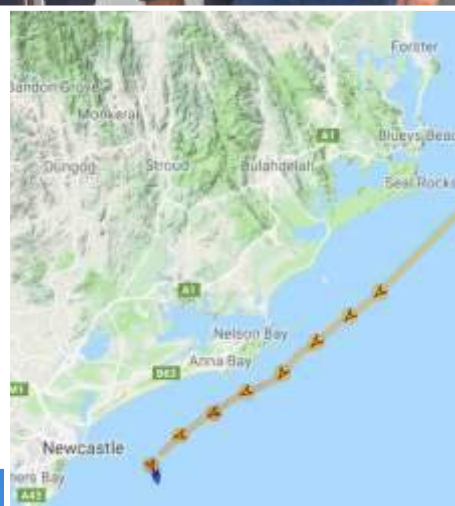
Our flagship Steber 38 lifeboat

launched just over three years ago has completed more than 1000 operational and training hours. A major service was completed on her trusty Yanmar diesel engines last week by our contractors who complimented our maintenance crew on 'one of the cleanest engine spaces they get to work on'.



Sydney Diesel mechanics and Bill Haskell

The big event for *John Thompson* this period has been the electronics upgrade mentioned in my previous article. Two new upgraded multi-function displays and a major system software upgrade. The upgrade (Raymarine Lighthouse 2 to Raymarine Lighthouse 3) presents significant changes in the operator interfaces as well as some architectural changes that have called for some changes to procedures. Head office have been able to loan us a (single MFD) training rig for the new



HMB Endeavour's Track today



set up. Unfortunately, many of the problems we have faced have been related to the multi display network of the onboard system. To date we are receiving excellent support from both our supplier BME and Raymarine themselves in overcoming the teething problems. In spite of the complexity of the changes there has been no effect on our operational capability, thanks in no small measure to the flexibility and professionalism of the boat crews.

Finally, the graphics. This from a recent encounter on PS31 with HMB Endeavour three miles off the entrance to Port Stephens – ***'When men were men and ships were made of wood'***

Barney Pinney



WELFARE

WELFARE & PROTOCOL OFFICER

I have a few on our *Sea Sick List* for this month, but no mention as yet about any members having the dreaded flu. Look after your health and please do not race to be the first to have the flu.

Jenni Fryer our ever busy radio operator and wedding co-organiser has been hospitalised for a few days recently after breaking her arm. I believe that Jenni's pet dog may have been the cause of this most unfortunate accident. Jenni, we are all thinking of you and look forward to your return to duty.

Rebecca Harband this young lady has certainly been unwell over the past six weeks with one medical problem leading to another. However good news for her as she is back at work and the medication and treatment is working well. Rebecca would like to thank all members who have inquired about her health while she has been off duty and recovering. All the best Rebecca and we look forward to having you back on deck with us.

Steve Chauncy another of our very hard working Rescue Base maintenance support workers, has been in hospital recently. Steve has had surgery to remove some growths very close to his eyes. All well Steve reports and he can not wait to be back on duty with his museum/cottage shifts and the beautiful view of the bay that goes with it all.

Richard Pizzuto our very hard working Deputy Operations Officer has also had a visit to hospital recently. Richard thought that it was time to address an ongoing problem he has had for some time. Knowing Richard as we all do, no half way measures for him! When I spoke with him recently he was quite pleased with the result from his operation and was looking forward to getting back into his duties with the base and vessels. All the best Richard.

Doug Craike our popular "Sparky" member has been off the scene for a few weeks now with a very troublesome back complaint. Doug reports that he is slowly on the mend, but has a way to go before he is back fully mended. Doug look after yourself and we promise not to do all your work at the base.

Peter Baldwin at time of writing this, I was informed that our *Rosters Officer* Peter had also been admitted to hospital after returning home from an overseas holiday. More to follow on Peter's condition when I am able to locate him. Get well Peter we are all thinking of you.

Elaine Cook after her major spinal surgery is progressing slowly. Husband John has been a tower of strength for Elaine, while she has been restricted in her every day duties.

Elaine and John we are all thinking of you and are here to assist. Members please give Elaine and John a call, I am sure it would mean a lot to them both.

Lloyd Cropper one of our long time serving members on both boat crew and base duties. Lloyd has not been with us on duty for some time now because of his commitment to his very sick wife. Lloyd's wife Barbara, is now in a nursing home, however Lloyd's time is taken up with assisting her needs on a daily basis.

Lloyd look after yourself and Barbara, family comes first and you have given close on to 30 years of service to the RVCP/Marine Rescue, all are thinking of you and Barbara in these difficult times.

Jenny Fitzsimons although our wonder woman Jen is well, she has been a very concerned and busy mother with her daughter, who has been far from well. Jenny and Peter have been travelling to Newcastle many days a week to assist Jenny's daughter who has been in hospital for some time. Jen reports that her daughter is now on the mend, however ongoing treatment continues. Jenny and Peter, all of your friends at Marine Rescue Port Stephens share their thoughts and best wishes to you and your daughter and family for a good outcome with her health.

Adi Sami the units condolences has been passed onto Adi and his family with the sad news of the passing of Adi's sister overseas recently. Adi and family, we are all very sorry to hear of this sad news and please remember that you have a lot of friends at Port Stephens Marine Rescue unit and we are all thinking of you in these very difficult times.

Passing Of Peg Weir

It is with much sadness that I report the passing of former RVCP member Peggy Weir. Peg some months ago had a fall that resulted in a broken hip. Unfortunately Peg has been in hospital all of this time and sadly passed away because of complications.

Peggy may not be familiar to many of our newer members, however she was the wife of the late John Weir who was the units chief radio officer and life member of RVCP/MR.

Peggy was also a member in her own right and was very involved in the Coastal Patrol days of fundraising and spent many hours a week in the gift shop.

To Peggy's daughter Rhonda and son Malcolm and their families may I on behalf of the Unit Commander, Deputy Unit Commander, fellow officers and members of Marine Rescue Port Stephens, pass on to you our sincere condolences with the passing of your mother.

Harold Gibson

Counselling Service

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

—
it is a sign of strength.



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Fridays at 5.30pm

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Monday - Burger and Chips - \$15 includes glass of house wine or schooner of draught beer or schooner of soft drink.**

Tuesday - Schnitzel Night- \$12 includes glass of house wine or schooner of draught beer or schooner of soft drink.**

Wednesday - Steak Night (200g) \$15 includes glass of house wine or schooner of draught beer or schooner of soft drink.**

Thursday - Pasta Night (choice of three dishes) - \$12 includes glass of house wine or schooner of draught beer or schooner of soft drink.**

Saturday - Free Kids Meal - Purchase a main meal from the "mains" section of the menu to receive one child's meal free and a middy of soft drink (child 0-12 years of age)

Sunday - Roast Night - \$12 Choice of Chicken Maryland, Pork, Lamb or Beef.

**Please check at the bar for this month's available house wine and beer options.

Full menu is also available every night including chef's nightly specials

*10% surcharge will apply on public holidays.

BINGO

Club Bingo

Mondays at 7pm and

Wednesdays at 9.30am

Children Welcome (must be supervised by an adult)

Regular Entertainment

Trivia Nights - Trivia Challenge
the last Wednesday 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*

APRIL AND MAY UNIT MEETINGS

Rod Reeson, guest speaker at the April Meeting with UC Colin Foote



Graeme Abberton receiving his 5 year service award



Peter Young receiving his MRO Certificate



Gary Williams receiving his MRO Certificate



UC Colin Foote, congratulating Murray O'Dea on achieving Crew Rating



Mick Duggan and Sue Freeman giving Mark Kelly receiving his crew epaulets



UC Colin Foote and Sandra Scheuber with the Gift Shop contribution.



UC Colin Foote and May guest speaker Gino Pin Senior Captain of the River Boat Postman



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COMMUNITY RELATIONS

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN DURING TRAINING.



Wednesday night 10 April, both our boats were out on the water carrying out routine night training exercises. During towing practice, our vessels were tasked through our Comms Centre by the Water Police, to go offshore to the scene of an EPIRB activation.

We arrived in the vicinity at the same time as a rescue helicopter from RAAF base Williamtown. While PS31 went to the last known reported position of the EPIRB

transmission, PS30 stood off Shark Island while the helicopter winched three people off the beach. These are treacherous waters.

Once the three people were safely on-board the helicopter, we were advised that they were crew off a 12 metre yacht which had been lost. We were stood down by the Water Police and returned to our dock.

A quick response by all involved. Skilful work by the crew of the Rescue Helicopter in so quickly locating the survivors and getting them safely on-board.

Iain Blackadder



RAAF 98 BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) was created on 31 March 1921. This formation followed the experience of our servicemen in the Australian Flying Corps during WWI.

On Thursday night, 28 March, 200 members of the local community in the vicinity of the RAAF base at Williamtown, were invited to celebrate this amazing milestone with serving RAAF personnel.

The Unit Commander of Marine Rescue Port Stephens, Colin Foote and Deputy Unit Commander, Peter Merlino, were proud to be invited to this function and represent the entire membership of this Unit.

Group Captain, Peter Cluff hosted the evening. He highlighted the strong relationship that the RAAF has with the community and the encouragement serving members are given to become engaged with organisations in that community.

Marine Rescue Port Stephens

is proud to have a number of serving RAAF personnel (and past members) as active members of our organisation.

Marine Rescue Port Stephens congratulates the RAAF on the 98th Birthday and recognises the dedicated service the RAAF gives the Australian community and the important contribution that serving and retired personnel provide to our organisation.

Iain Blackadder



Dep. Unit Commander Peter Merlino, Warrant Officer Nick Dentrinos (member of Port Stephens) Group Captain Peter Cluff, Wing Commander Michael Duggan (member of Port Stephens) Unit Commander Colin Foote

Lighthouse Weddings



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

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

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

Wedding Co-Ordinator

Mobile: 0491 135 102

E mail: weddings.portstephens@gmail.com.

LIGHTHOUSE WEDDINGS AND RIVERBOAT POSTMAN



**Left: Alana and Ben Clacher
from Salamander Bay
married 27 March**



**Right: Rachel and Hamish
McInnes from Newcastle
married 29 March**

We have had just two lovely Weddings, to finish off the Summer. Hope you have enjoyed seeing the photos of all our happy couples that have been married at the Inner Light these last few months. Be back in August when the weddings start again.

Thanks again to all who have been part of organising these memorable occasions.

Jenny Fitzsimons
Wedding Co-Ordinator

RIVER BOAT POSTMAN

At a recent Marine Rescue Port Stephens' Monthly Meeting, our guest speaker was Gino Pin, Senior Captain of the River Boat Postman. Gino's talk was a hilarious journey through his life - such a funny and genuine man. He kept the audience spellbound.

Gino described being the Senior Captain on the River Boat Postman as the best job in the world.

He also talked about his relationship with Marine Rescue Hawkesbury, Cottage Pt. and the RFS and SES units on the river.

This post boat runs on the Hawkesbury River, Brooklyn, NSW. The last river boat working for Australia Post in Australia is also a famous tourist boat on the beautiful

Hawkesbury River.

Read more about the River Boat Postman at <http://riverboatpostman.com.au>

Iain Blackadder



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Hawkesbury River, Sydney, Australia

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Mike (vendor)

"It is not every day that one finds a real estate agent that brings a smile to one's face when you see their number pop up on the phone which is how my wife felt when Samantha would call. My wife Jayne was in touch with Samantha who was immediately friendly and polite and who found excellent tenants in very short order. Her diligence and professionalism were excellent as was her positive attitude"

Peter & Jayne (vendor)

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Principal/Licensee
0423 792 829



Paul Morris
Real Estate Agent
0431 412 664



Kaelyn Walker
Sales & Marketing
4984 4700



Samantha Kirby
Property Manager
Licensed Agent
4984 4700



Brody Gertz
Property Manager
Licensed Agent
4984 4700



Gemma Chircop
Receptionist
4984 4700

RFS LIAISON HUNTER VALLEY AND LOWER HUNTER

RFS LIASON HUNTER VALLEY

Hunter Valley management have asked that we take over the Radio Comms during Sunday each weekend. Members of the Executive have agreed to help out our fellow organisation but on the following understanding.

- That we will take the 000 calls and make the relevant paging to the brigades involved.
- As our priority is about our commitment to marine situations, if we are under a workload that would prohibit further involvement, we would hand over the remaining radio comms to the RFS Duty Officer.
- In any event, if we are unable to handle the normal 'yellow' radio calls, we would inform the Duty Officer and he/she will take on this radio communication with the brigades.

- We will take the Fireline from around 1600 on Saturday until around 0800 on the following Monday.

We have always respected the work that our fellow volunteers in the RFS contribute to our community on land. To assist them when they have limited Comms resources in their District at present, it continues in our mission to serve the community.

It is understood by the RFS that this arrangement will only continue until September when we again enter our busy season.

In common with our respect for those who have served our country by marching in the Nelson Bay ANZAC Day march, in Singleton the same understanding was shown in assisting those who have served by using RFS transportation.

It's here at: www.facebook.com/RFSHunterValley/videos/445904822827850/

Finally, yes we were involved in the 000 call for this fire at Ravensworth. Great work by our Watchkeeper, the brigades and RFS DO.

Prepare. Act. Survive.

Colin Couper



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

		Bush	Grass	Structure	CFR	MVA	Car	AFA	Other	Total
Mar-19	HVRFS	2	2	0	2	8	8	0	5	27
Apr-19	HVRFS	2	3	1	0	7	6	1	3	23
Mar-19	LHRFS	10	8	1	10	14	16	2	21	82
Apr-19	LHRFS	10	10	3	7	12	16	4	11	73
Total	Mar/Apr	24	23	5	19	41	46	7	40	205
TOTAL for 2019		71	49	15	37	68	84	23	82	429

RFS LIAISON LOWER HUNTER

The night shift does the majority of the fires we get. Although we are taking over radio communication for Hunter Valley on Sundays, communications for Lower Hunter for Sundays will still be handled by East Maitland Fire Control.

Fingal Bay and Soldiers Point brigades were called out on the 22 and 23 May to search for a person who went missing on Mount Tomaree. Our two boats and LT20

also participated in the search. It just goes to show that as volunteers we can at times be called upon to do things that are not necessarily our core business so to speak.

Ross Debenham



BIRDS AROUND THE BASE

BIRDS AROUND THE BASE

Oystercatchers

Two large, colourful waders that are seen along our local coastline, bays and rocky headlands are the **Australian Pied Oystercatcher** (below) and the **Sooty Oystercatcher** (right). Oystercatchers are shy of humans and seldom allow close approach. Port Stephens is an important year round habitat for both birds.



Australian Pied Oystercatcher

Australian Pied Oystercatcher (*Haematopus longirostris*) is a large shorebird 42-50 cm long, with a black back and white breast and belly. It has a long, bright orange bill, orange eye ring, dark red eyes and pink legs. The chicks are grey and white and immature birds on fledging are similar to adults with less intense colours on bill, eye rings and legs.

Pied Oystercatchers are found in coastal areas throughout the Australian continent and closely related forms are found in almost every continent in the world. They feed along sandy beaches and mudflats, probing with their bills for sandworms, molluscs and crustaceans. The dexterity shown in locating, extracting and opening molluscs is truly amazing. At high tide, oystercatchers roost along isolated rocky headlands or sandbars, often in company with other wader species.

The Pied Oystercatcher breeds in pairs within a territory defended by both birds. Two or three eggs are laid in a shallow scrape on sand, shell grit or shingle just above high water mark on beaches, sandbars and lagoons. The eggs are well-camouflaged, being pale brown with darker brown and black blotches and streaks. Both sexes share parenting duties. Once fledged, juveniles may move into Port Stephens or disperse north or south to other coastal sites.

Within Port Stephens, Pied Oystercatchers numbers have been surveyed comprehensively in summer since 2004 and in winter since 2008. Summer bird numbers average 133 and in winter the average is 145. Maximum count was 192 in the summer of 2012. The lower summer count may be due to some birds being absent at breeding sites. The numbers present represent around 1.5% of the world population and make Port Stephens an

internationally significant site for this species. At high tide large numbers of Pied Oystercatchers roost along the foreshore of Swan Bay and the Gir-um-bit National Park, around Dowadee Island and at Winda Woppa Point.

Pied Oystercatchers are not known to breed within Port Stephens and it is thought the area acts as a holding site for birds waiting for breeding opportunities in other locations. The closest breeding locality to Port Stephens is Stockton Beach. Here birds establish territories in early summer, 0.5 to 1.0 km apart on the 10 km section of beach between Birubi Beach and Tin City. This section of the beach has a relatively flat profile and a plentiful supply of Pipis. However, breeding on Stockton Beach exposes the birds to intense disturbance from people, vehicles and dogs, and to associated high numbers of avian predators.



Sooty Oystercatcher

The Sooty Oystercatcher is a striking black shorebird with a long red bill, orange eye ring, red eye and pink legs. It is the largest of all oystercatchers. It is 42-52 cm in length with a bill length of 5-8 cm. Males weigh around 820 gm and females weigh up to 1 kg. Immature birds have grey-brown legs, a bill tipped with brown, a brown cast to their plumage, and brown eyes. The bill, eyes and legs become red by the second year.

The Sooty Oystercatcher is strictly coastal, and prefers rocky shores, but can at times be seen on reefs, sandy beaches or mudflats. It is endemic to Australia and is widespread in coastal eastern, southern and western Australia. It feeds in the intertidal zone for two hours either side of low tide. Prey are molluscs, crabs and other crustaceans, marine worms, starfish, sea urchins, and small fish. Females prefer soft-bodied prey that can be swallowed whole while males prefer hard-shelled prey. It uses its long bill to stab at prey or to lever, prise or hammer open food items. It drinks seawater.

The Sooty Oystercatcher breeds in colonies on offshore islands and isolated rocky headlands. The nest is a scrape on the ground among pebbles or shells on rocky shores or a crevice on a cliff. Both members of a breeding pair incubate a clutch of two or three eggs and care for the young. Both the Australian Pied

(Continued on page 29)

SBIRDS AROUND THE BASE.... SOCIAL COMMITTEE

(Continued from page 28)

Oystercatcher and the Sooty Oystercatcher are classified as Vulnerable in NSW.

A future articles will discuss the importance of Port Stephens as a habitat for the Australian Pied Oystercatcher and a number of other wader species.

Another article will discuss some of the other threatened species that use Stockton Beach for feeding and breeding, and the problems they face.

**Neil Fraser
Twitcher**



SOCIAL COMMITTEE

On Friday 24 May a group of Marine Rescue Port Stephens members had the real privilege of visiting 3 Squadron and the SAR Wing at Williamtown RAAF Base. This visit was organised by Lisa and Peter who are serving members of the RAAF and also members of MRPS.

Helicopter is stationed. Normally we see the helicopter from the deck of PS31 during training sessions. Nice to meet some of the people we often work with. Thanks Tara and Ben.

The aircraft, the facilities, the excitement were all memorable but what was truly memorable was the hospitality extended to us by the various members of 3 Squadron and the SAR Wing.

We particularly want to thank, Wing Commander Darren Clarey, Commanding Officer of 3 Squadron who spent so much time with us answering a thousand questions. Also to Flight Lieutenant Jess Robinson, Sargent Dion Johnson, and LAC Matthew Parsons. Maybe one day we can return the hospitality.



3 Squadron fly the new F35 Joint Strike fighter. The group toured the new purpose-built facility for the F35's including some of the training areas and flight line where the first four, F35s are stationed. The entire new structure is immense, showcasing the enormous project preparing for the arrival of 72+ aircraft. The engineering, management and training preparation is sensational. Naturally cameras were not permitted but the memories will live on.

The group also visited the SAR Wing where the Rescue



Lisa Loding and Heather Perry-Comley



MRPS Social Committee 2019 schedule

Month	Date	Event	Comments
August	Friday 09 August	The Riverboat Postman	Travel by 53 seat PS coach or self drive, 60 tickets available. Keep an eye out for email and info on our website.
July/ September	TBA	Interactive Trivia Night	Further details later.

Year 2019 NSW Public School Holidays

Winter Holidays	6-Jul-19	21-Jul-19
Spring Holidays	28-Sep-19	13-Oct-19
Summer Holidays	21-Dec-19	27-Jan-20

ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS

Service Anniversaries

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

June

Mike BROWN	22
Louise MOORE	20
Geoffrey MOORE	20
Harry McNAMARA	13
Andrew MACLACHLAN	10
Neil HANSFORD	10
Kevin GRIFFEY	10
Narelle FISHER	8
Robyn WINTER	8

John VASSALLO	8
Tim BOYLE	6
Christine RYNNE	5
Stephen MURRAY	4
Lyndall DAY	3
Deb VAN DRUTEN	3
Rebecca HARBAND	2
Jordan COGGAN	2
Pam WALTERS	2
Pamela SMITH	2

July

Loris WEBSTER	7
Colin FOOTE	7
Ian JACK	3
Bruce LUNNON	2
Rachel SYMONDS	2
Steve SPEAR	1
Amanda SUTHERLAND	1

Happy Birthday

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

June

John ALMGREN
Kev LANYON
Russell CRAIG
Betty TRICKETT
Bill HASKELL
Deniece GILLILAND
Elizabeth FRANCIS
Deb VAN DRUTEN
Luaan POGGI

July

Di BAILLIE
Rod REESON
Valerie BENNET
Colin FOOTE
Barney PINNEY
Jenny FITZSIMONS
Sharon GRADY
Amanda SUTHERLAND
Mike GROVER
Rosemary ADAMS
Iain BLACKADDER

Greg WALSH
Steve PICTON
Martin COLLINS
Rachel SYMONDS
Rebecca HARBAND
Jennifer DUNN
Jessica LIGHTON
Zoe EVES



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PORT STEPHENS WEATHER

Nelson Bay, NSW - April 2019

Date	Day	Temps		Rain mm
		Min	Max	
		°C	°C	
1	Mo	14	19.5	0
2	Tu	14.5	23.5	40.3
3	We	16.5	26.5	0
4	Th	17.5	23	0.1
5	Fr	17.5	24.4	0.4
6	Sa	17.1	25.2	7.4
7	Su	17.2	27.2	0
8	Mo	20.2	32.2	0
9	Tu	22.1	32.4	0
10	We	18	22	0.8
11	Th	15	22.3	0.4
12	Fr	16.5	23.5	0
13	Sa	14.9	25.1	1.4
14	Su	16.5	21	0
15	Mo	16.2	22.2	25.8
16	Tu	16.2	24	8.5
17	We	16.5	25.3	1.6
18	Th	17	26.2	0
19	Fr	18.8	24.2	0
20	Sa	18.2	27.2	1.6
21	Su	19	26.1	0
22	Mo	18.1	26.5	0
23	Tu	19	26.5	0
24	We	18.5	26.5	0
25	Th	17	25.4	0
26	Fr	17.7	29	0
27	Sa	12.9	20.4	10.8
28	Su	13.5	22.5	0.4
29	Mo	14.5	24.1	0
30	Tu	15.9	24.5	0

Statistics for April 2019

Mean	17.0	25.0	
Lowest	12.9	19.5	0
Highest	22.1	32.4	40.3
Total			99.5

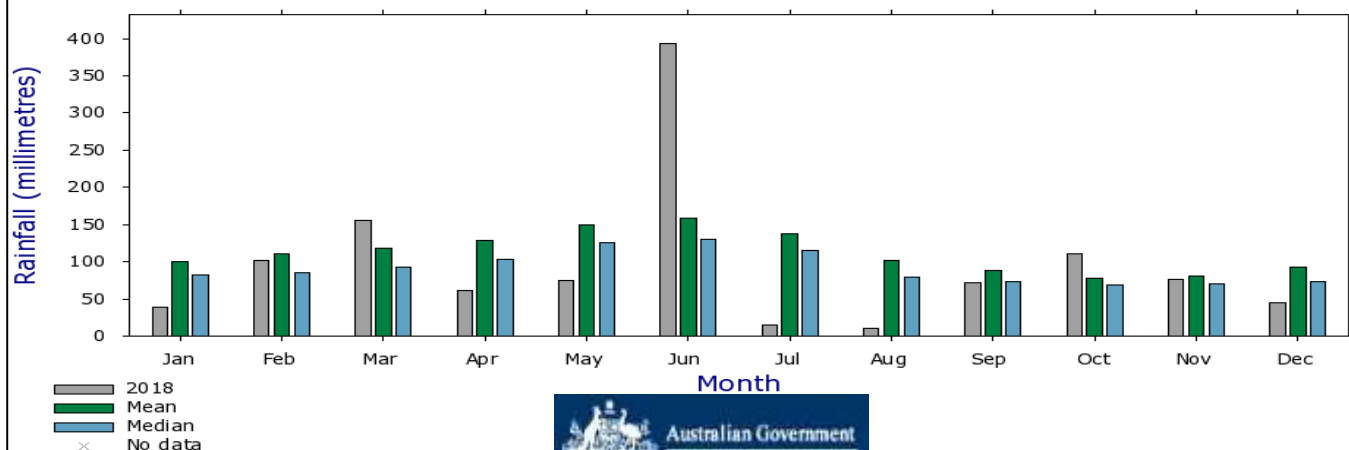
Nelson Bay, NSW - May 2019

Date	Day	Temps		Rain mm
		Min	Max	
		°C	°C	
1	We	18	25.1	0
2	Th	18.9	24.5	0
3	Fr	19.8	24.4	0
4	Sa		19.7	22
5	Su	13.5	19.1	12.2
6	Mo	12.5	19.1	30
7	Tu	12.2	22.6	0.2
8	We	12.4	22	0
9	Th	12.5	20.1	0
10	Fr	13.4	25.8	0
11	Sa	12.1	20.6	8
12	Su	11.5	20.5	0
13	Mo	12.7	22.1	3.8
14	Tu	13.6	23.9	0
15	We	14	22.9	0
16	Th	14.5	23	0
17	Fr	15.6	22.7	0
18	Sa	15.8	23.7	0
19	Su	15	22.5	0.3
20	Mo	15	22.1	0
21	Tu	14.5	25.1	0
22	We	15.2	25.1	0
23	Th	15.1	24.5	0
24	Fr	14.7	22.7	0
25	Sa	15	24.1	0
26	Su	15	24.2	0
27	Mo	13.8	20.5	0
28	Tu	8.4	18.3	0
29	We	11	19.5	0
30	Th	10	16.3	0
31	Fr	9.7	17.2	0

Statistics for May 2019

Mean	13.8	22.1	
Lowest	8.40	16.30	0.00
Highest	19.80	25.80	30.0
Total			76.5

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



Note: Data may not have completed quality control

Climate Data Online, Bureau of Meteorology
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MARINE RESCUE PORT STEPHENS

"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally"



Our service to Port Stephens 2005-2018

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

Every day, Marine Rescue Port Stephens Members give more than 60 volunteer hours to serve our community

Volunteers saving lives on the water

IN APPRECIATION....

Contributors to this issue of *Port Chatter*:

Iain Blackadder, Colin Couper, Ross Debenham, Jenny Fitzsimons, Colin Foote, Neil Fraser, Harold Gibson, Kevin Griffey, Lisa Lodding, Peter Merlino, Tony O'Donnell, Heather Perry-Comley, Barney Pinney, Maureen Wheatley and Peter Young. Other photos by Stephen Alta, Ross Debenham, Tony O'Donnell and Milja Phillipson. You too can become a contributor and you will be most welcome. See inside front cover.

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

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		Terry White Chemart Pharmacy, Nelson Bay
	Eye Care	Eye Care Plus
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		Soldiers Point Marina
	Boating Sales and Repairs	Nelson Bay Outboard Services
	Fishing Supplies	Duff's Salamander Bait & Tackle (at Coles Express)
Motor Vehicles	Service Stations/Tyres	Fingal Bay Service Station and Tyres
Windscreen Repairs		Novus Autoglass Shop
Real Estate		Century 21 Paradise Waters, Nelson Bay
Restaurants and Cafes		Oysters on the Bay – D'Albora Marinas
		Inner Light Tea Rooms, Nelson Head



NEXT UNIT MEETING

TUESDAY 18 June 2019

TUESDAY 16 July 2019

*All Members
Welcome*

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

Important information on operational matters will be discussed.

Food and refreshments provided.

MARINE RESCUE NSW PORT STEPHENS RESCUE VESSELS CURRENTLY IN SERVICE

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

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

PORT STEPHENS RESCUE VESSEL *PORT STEPHENS 31*

JOHN THOMPSON



Specifications

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

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

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

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

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



Specifications:

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

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

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

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



Teramby Road, Nelson Bay
 Phone: 02 4984 1333
 Fax: 02 4984 1390
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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Hogs Breath Cafe	02 4984 2842	Sandbar Seafood	02 4984 3777
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