

# PORT CHATTER

MARINE RESCUE NSW  
PORT STEPHENS UNIT

OCTOBER 2017



*"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally"*



***Farewell Danial Thain***



## MARINE RESCUE NSW – PORT STEPHENS UNIT

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## VOLUNTEERS SAVING LIVES ON THE WATER

### UNIT APPOINTMENTS

<b>Patrons:</b> Kate Washington MP, State Member Port Stephens Meryl Swanson MP, Federal Member Paterson Stephen Bromhead LLM MP, State Member Myall Lakes The Hon. Dr David Gillespie MP, Federal Member Lyne The Hon. Bob Baldwin		<b>Awards and Recognition</b> <b>Protocol Officer</b> <b>Corporate Services</b> <b>Administration Officer</b> Base Centre Services W.H. & S Officer Base Security Membership & Mentoring  Rosters Maintenance and Supply  Data Base/Stats Technical Services  Admin Support Historian	<b>Iain Blackadder</b> <b>Harold Gibson</b>  <b>John Reid</b> Jenny Fitzsimons Kevin Griffey John P Smith Stephen Harris Angela Tilling Loris Webster Peter Baldwin Vacant Steve Picton Margaret Morrison Maureen Wheatley Lee Ryman Brian Richardson Peter Baldwin Robert Johnson Dieter Greiter Erica Smith Paul Farnill
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<b>Finance</b> <b>Treasurer</b> <b>Community Relations</b> <b>Community Relations Officer</b> Public Relations/Social Media Events Coordinator Editor Port Chatter Asst Editor Port Chatter Marine Radio Service Database Social Committee  Gift Shop Manager Grants Officer Fund Raising Officer Unit Photographer Webmaster  <b>Education and Training</b> <b>Unit Training Officer</b> Training Systems Officer Assistant Training Systems Officer Rescue Vessels Training Officer Course Presenters: Paul Buckley Mick Milton  <b>Welfare / Liaison</b> Assistant <b>Emergency Services Liaison</b>	<b>Peter Merlino</b>  <b>Neil Hansford</b> Matt Darby Dee Gilliland Penelope Highland Frank van Druten Graeme Abberton Laurie & Deb Nolan Frank & Deb van Druten Sandra Scheuber Julian Liddy-Meaney John Herrett Geoff Clark Peter Baldwin  <b>Brian Bibbing</b> Graeme Abberton Julian Liddy-Meaney Richard Pizzuto Peter Dentrinos Neil Fraser Richard Pizzuto David Rogers  <b>Harold Gibson</b> Jenny Fitzsimons <b>Colin Cahill</b>	<b>Trust Management Sub-Committee</b> Chairman Treasurer/Deputy Chairman Secretary Committee Port Stephens Historical Society Welfare / Liaison Wedding Events Co-ordinator Tours	Kevin Griffey Peter Merlino Vacant Peter Fitzsimons Dennis Corr Harold Gibson 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 John Herrett



## 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 October 2017 edition of Port Chatter.

7 September 2017 was a day of mixed emotions as our grand old lady *Danial Thain* departed Port Stephens for probably the last time. The media event planned for DT's leaving on 6 September was somewhat scuttled when bad weather delayed her departure. Despite this, she did receive a grand farewell fitting for her contribution to the safety of the boating public and the volunteer Crew from this unit who have served on her over the last 17 years.

Congratulations to DUC Neil Hansford and Operations Officer Tony O'Donnell for

their organisation behind DT's farewell. Recognition must also go to Bill Haskell, Eryl Thomas, Ken Johnson and several others for the outstanding work they have undertaken to keep DT running well and satisfy the demands of the sale process.

Over the next several months, a fitting tribute to "*Danial Thain*" will be established somewhere in the Nelson Head Lighthouse and Rescue Station Reserve. Anyone with ideas or suggestions should contact me.

Over the weekend 16 and 17 September Neil Hansford and I attended the 2017 MRNSW Leadership Conference at Rydges in Port Macquarie. This is a biennial event for Unit Commanders, Deputy Unit Commanders, Board Members and Headquarters staff. The theme for this year's conference was "Leadership" with the Board of MRNSW very clearly focused on developing a program of training and briefings specifically designed to assist and support newly elected Unit Commanders and Deputy Unit Commanders in the execution of their respective accountabilities and responsibilities. This is likely to include leadership skills, personnel management, media

awareness and financial management training in an environment of mutual support where Unit Commanders and Deputy Unit Commanders can gain an understanding of the vast variety that exists between Units in MRNSW. The conference was very beneficial and very professionally facilitated and coordinated.

What struck me from the 2017 MRNSW Leadership Conference was that many in MRNSW have a high regard for MR Port Stephens. As satisfying as that was,

there are still some in MRNSW whose only experience with this Unit is from the turbulent events around the amalgamation of Coastal Patrol, Coast Guard and VRA into MRNSW. Our challenge is to be the best



corporate member of MRNSW that we can, to learn from others doing good work so we continue to improve and to assist other Units where we can. It's a challenge I know the volunteers of this Unit are up to.

As we approach the busiest period of the boating season, and confronted with what may be one of the worst bush fire seasons for several years, I thank you in advance for your efforts in meeting the roster demands of the Comms Centre, Cottage and Gift Shop and crewing requirements of the rescue vessels. It will be a demanding December – February period .... but I know we are up to the task. Thank you for your dedication and community focused spirit.

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

**Lee Uebergang**

**"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally"**



### DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Again, we have been busy overseeing the installation of our new NBN based telephone and internet systems to future proof us for when the analogue telephone lines are closed down in 2018. We have used the opportunity to give ourselves a system that is second to none and capable of us having capacities and back up which will take us past the next decade.

Lee Ryman will cover in detail what we have achieved at a later date. All of this has been possible by Community

Grants from Wests Nelson Bay and Port Stephens Council and we have been able to preserve our funds.

On **Grants**, we have spent the Emergency Volunteers Support Scheme Grants from the NSW Government in order to be totally self-sufficient in first-aid and advanced resuscitation equipment. We are well into spending the \$6,800 provided to expand our membership and produce new member induction material.

With the Unit Commander, I attended the UC/DUC Leadership conference in Port Macquarie in September.

*(Continued on page 6)*



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Hogs Breath Mascot on board PS 31 John Thompson

(Continued from page 5)

We are clearly the largest Unit in NSW - and probably Australia - and we are considered as being up with the front runners on our performance in all facets of operation. We did though learn many things we can do even better as a Unit.

In line with the requirements of a Head Office Image audit we have upgraded our signage on the base and, most importantly, the boat dock. Have a good look around and if you can find an RVCP sign that is not in the museum you are better than us.

We continue to draw on members to man our Bunnings

barbeques. The six per year that we run should put around \$4-5,000 in the coffers and enhances our community contact. We need more volunteers for October and November as detailed on the website.

If you haven't looked at your site, [www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au](http://www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au), you are missing being able to learn so much about what your unit is doing plus there are essential rosters and contact lists in the Members Only section. There is so much up to date information at your fingertips.

(Continued on page 7)



## FROM THE BRIDGE.....

(Continued from page 6)

We have one more Seafood Raffle at Nelson Bay Bowling Club for the year. These will produce over \$1,500.

Thanks to Laurie, Frank, wives and New members like Lyndall for looking after this activity.

You will soon be briefed on a promotion that we will be doing with Hog's at Nelson Bay (formerly Hog's Breath). This will see MRPS receive a donation based on every person that dines receiving a token in favour of MRPS and being encouraged to contribute themselves along



*Hogs Breath Mascot on board PS 31 John Thompson with the crew.*

with Hog's. (See vouchers on opposite page.)

In addition, we will hand out the discount vouchers at the Base and Gift Shop and when they are redeemed by the customers we receive a further Hog's Donation.

This is an innovation that could raise very substantial funds for the Unit on a continuous basis.

Have you been to our Gift Shop lately? The stock on offer is well focused for our market and

Sandra and the ladies advise me that we are developing a strong market with residents who see the Gift Shop as a great place to buy family and staff gifts. Winter trading continued at almost Spring / Summer levels.

If you are a Facebook follower you will see that hardly a day goes by without a Post on events and rescues we participate in.

Who doesn't listen to PSFM 100.9? We not only provide weather information throughout the day but every morning



*Love Seafood Oyster Shucking Competition with Jenny Frost*



*Hogs Breath Mascot*



*Love Seafood Organisers*

at 06:40 our Watchkeepers deliver the information live - now how good is that! We are indebted to PSFM for the support they give us and for providing us with another link to our community.

If you are a reader of the Port Stephens Examiner or News of the Area you will see that hardly a week goes by without a MRPS story. This is supported by news items on NBN TV and the ABC Newcastle and beyond.

We are a good story and the media love what our people do.

I would like to welcome **Julian Lyddy-Meaney** as our new **Grants Officer** and **John Herrett** as our **Fundraising Officer**. It is his task to take over getting the teams and venues together for our fundraisers like Bunnings. Julian has the task to continue our success in winning Grants. Our Grants won in July equalled what we got through the entire 2016-17 financial year.

This year there won't be an Art Union put together by

Head Office. We therefore need to pull all stops out at fundraising activities to offset almost \$60,000 the art unions have contributed over the last 4 years.

As one of our major donors said, "We give to Marine Rescue Port

Stephens because if our donation helps save just one life it is worth every cent".

Very sobering going into Summer as an Emergency Service the whole community relies on.

**Neil Hansford**





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## DANIAL THAIN FAREWELL & CORPORATE SERVICES

### LONG SERVING RESCUE VESSEL LEAVES PORT STEPHENS FOR LAST TIME

7 September saw rescue vessel PS40 *Danial Thain* leave Port Stephens for its next stint as a training vessel with its new owners, ECA Maritime College Brisbane.



*Danial Thain* was delivered to Port Stephens in 1999 after having given service on the Scottish Coast with the Royal National Lifeboat Institute for 21 years as "*Spirit of Tayside*" out of the port of Broughty Ferry.

During its time in Marine Rescue NSW service the *Danial Thain* was involved in hundreds of rescues, four of which saw her crews recognised for major National Courage Awards including a Medal of Valour presented to Coxswain Laurie Nolan.

During her time over the last almost sixteen years, along with the other Marine Rescue Port Stephens vessels, over 2,000 rescues have been performed saving over 4,400 lives and \$230m value of vessels.



Unit Commander, Lee Uebergang commented, "Only by the generosity of donors was the Port Stephens Unit able to acquire the *Danial Thain* back in 1999 and since then it has served those offshore and inshore with distinction and played a major role in making the Port Stephens waters as safe as possible. We are sorry to see *Danial Thain* go, but it couldn't have found a more appropriate home, training tomorrow's commercial masters and crews in Queensland."

The replacement in 2016 with the fast rescue vessel PS31 *John Thompson* allows the highly trained volunteer rescue crews to get to vessels needing assistance at over 30 knots, depending on sea conditions. The *John Thompson* is supported by our other smaller rescue vessel PS30 *Codi K II* - also entirely crewed by volunteers.

PS 40 was escorted out of Port Stephens, led by Water

Police 24 and a flotilla of vessels drawn from numerous emergency services in Port Stephens as it headed for its new home in the Brisbane River.

### FAREWELL DANIAL THAIN

### ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

The Executive has approved the purchase of a new Multi Function Device for the Command Centre to replace the existing unit which is now over four years old. The new unit will allow us greater versatility in printing and will also allow us to staple and punch holes in documents. This will make the printing of Port Chatter much easier and will also enable us to print our own training materials. The new unit will be installed in October and comprehensive training will be supplied to all users.

Membership remains steady at around the 200 mark. We are currently conducting a review of all membership records to determine those members who are not active in any area of our operations and will move a number of members to the inactive list at the completion of the review.

The ICT group, particularly our IT Officer Lee Ryman, have been very busy changing over all of our phone and communication lines to the new NBN/Telstra digital installation. Currently four lines have been ported across to the new system and the remaining four lines will be ported over by the end of October. Negotiations are continuing on the provision of an air fibre link between the Base and premises in Shoal Bay as a back-up facility and this system is scheduled to be completed in the next couple of months.

A new fire alarm warning system has been installed with speakers in both outside and inside locations. Activation of this system in the Comms Centre generates a pre-recorded message and there is provision for the Watch Officer to manually override

(Continued on page 11)

# Marine Rescue NSW Members...

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## CORPORATE SERVICES ..... & BOAT OFFICER

(Continued from page 9)

this message by dialling #00 on any of the telephones in the Comms Centre. This will allow the Comms Centre staff to direct visitors and staff to the emergency evacuation locations in the event of a fire.

New signs have been erected in various locations around the Base in both MRPS and Trust areas for better direction and to designate reserved member parking areas.

We are still looking for a Building/Facilities Co-ordinator to look after all of the buildings and facilities on site. Anyone with the relevant experience would be most welcome to apply.

**John Reid**



### BOAT OFFICER

The maintenance list of jobs has been reduced over the last month or so such that some time is now available to work on the dock itself. As you can see in the attached photo, DT has gone as has the excess timber from the repair of the dock flooring and the surplus diesel 240 volt generator. Also in the photo is the end view of our new workbench and the new signage on our entry gate. All we need now is the storage/office shed and the maintenance team will be very happy.

There are still some minor serviceability faults with both craft but these do not affect the operational

capabilities of the craft. Codi K II has the biggest problem in that she has an air leak in the port mid sponson cell that will require the craft being lifted out of the water on the Lemon Tree Passage trailer. In the meantime, it requires a bit of work with the air pump. At the same, it is hoped the depth sounder transducer will be repaired permanently. Finally, I would like to thank my maintenance team of stalwarts for turning up each Wednesday to keep the craft on the water in pristine condition.

**Ken Johnson**



## 35-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

### EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR

Have you made your reservation yet?

Time to get moving and make that booking. Why not book a table with your family and friends and have an early Christmas celebration.

An evening of food and fun at Soldiers Point Bowling Club on Saturday 4 November 2017 starting at 1830 and finishing late to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of Marine Rescue Port Stephens

For \$40 per person you will get a delicious 3 course meal with wine, guest speaker and dancing to Summerland Kings.

Make your booking now by logging on to

[www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au](http://www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au) and scroll down to Latest News, click on the 'click here to book' button.

Once completed you will receive a confirmation and a ticket to print if you wish.

Remember booking close on Monday 23 October – don't miss out!

**Dee Gilliland**



*You're invited..*

## Marine Rescue Port Stephens 35th Anniversary Dinner Dance

Saturday 4 November 2017 from 6:30pm until late  
at Soldiers Point Bowling Club - \$40 per person



Dress: Cocktail (Jacket for men)

RSVP: [www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au](http://www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au)



First Aid Refresher Course





## AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS AT THE AUGUST MESS MEETING

### PORT STEPHENS MEMBERS HONOURED

At a ceremony held on August 15 at Marine Rescue Port Stephens, 18 Members of the Unit were recognised for their service and courage.

This includes government organisations such as ambulance, correctional, emergency, fire and police forces, and voluntary organisations such as lifesaving or search and rescue groups.



*Ross Debenham*



*Michael Brown*

Three members received the National Medal conferred by the Governor General. The National Medal was awarded to Ross Debenham, Ronald Lighton and Paul Farnhill and presented by the Regional Operations Manager, Marine Rescue NSW, Steve Raymond.

The National Medal recognises long and diligent service by members of recognised government and voluntary organisations that risk their lives or safety to protect or assist the community in enforcement of the law or in times of emergency or natural disaster.



*Paul Farnhill*

Lloyd Cropper was presented with his 1st, 2nd and 3rd Clasps for Service Awards representing over 45 years of service.

Deniece Gilliland, Paul Farnhill and Russel Craig received the Marine Rescue NSW, 10-year Service medal.

Michael Brown was awarded the



*Ron Lighton*



*Russell Craig*

Commissioner's Citation in relation to the part he played in the "Excalibur" rescue. This is one of only seven rescues recognised on the Marine Rescue and successor organisations, Honour Board.

A highlight of the night was when the Port Stephens Unit received the Unit Citation for Courage and Service in relation to the 2015 "Reef Dragon" rescue.

*(Continued on page 15)*



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## AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS AT THE AUGUST & SEPTEMBER MESS MEETING

*(Continued from page 13)*

The individual crew members had previously received their individual awards. The Recipients were, Barbara Cole, Laurie Nolan, Michael Smith, Robert Johnson, Barney Pinney, Paul Sullivan, Peter Merlino, Richard Pizzuto, Colin Foote, Tony O'Donnell and Angela Tilling.

This ceremony follows on from earlier this year when the Commissioner, Stacey Tannos presented awards to 21 Port Stephens Members for their role in the rescues related to the "East Coast Low" in 2016.

Unit Commander, Lee Uebergang said, "It is very encouraging for all our 240 members to see their colleagues being recognised for selfless voluntary service by the making of these awards. Recognition of volunteers doing our jobs professionally as part of the Emergency Services framework inspires all our volunteer members to strive to be even more effective."



*Steve Raymond, and Lee Uebergang*



*Steve Raymond, Tony O'Donnell, Richard Pizzuto, Barney Pinney, Colin Foote, Lee Uebergang and Paul Sullivan*



*Sandra Scheuber presenting the August Gift Shop cheque.*



*Laurie Nolan receiving his Coxswain ratings at the September meeting.*



*Shirley Clark presenting the September Gift Shop cheque.*



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## OPERATIONS

### OPERATIONS OFFICER

The Operations functions at Marine Rescue Port Stephens are generally routine. We have Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for most things we do. These procedures range from how our boat crews work out on the water to how our Radio Operators handle the routine radio calls made to our Radio Room.

We are continually training so that when the routine occurs our responses are what we might call "text book".

We are an Emergency Service and what we really want is to respond professionally to the non-routine distress situations. Our experience shows that when distress incidents occur they are generally not "routine". That is when our comprehensive training regime brings out the best in our people and they can manage professionally those many and varied situations.

Our boat crews are always faced with varying weather conditions and physical locations. Good basic training gives them the flexibility to handle the routine and especially the challenging situations (and there are many).

Similarly, our Radio Operators are continually monitoring all the distress/contact frequencies, handling the routine but ready to react to that Distress call from a boater in trouble.

They are also responsive to RFS incidents where fast reaction is the key factor in allowing the RFS Crews to do what they are highly skilled at.

For the period January to September our Radio base had managed 159 Marine Incidents - ranging from a flare sighting through flat batteries on the water right up to serious vessel problems.

What is generally unknown is that in the night hours, when we are the Communications Radio base of RFS Lower Hunter Valley

and Hunter Valley Districts, those same radio operators have responded to 698 RFS incidents.

Our Motto is Volunteers Doing our Jobs Professionally. I think these statistics show we are achieving that.

Since the last Issue of Port Chatter PS30 (Codi K-II) has been out of the water for service. Maintaining our vessels is expensive. However we require them to perform when we are called upon to assist others on the water - so it is a cost we must bear.

Twice in the month of September we were tasked by the Water Police to assist seriously sea sick crews out off the coast. Ye, it happens to the most seasoned sailors sometimes.

On another occasion we were tasked to help a small boat north of Broughton Island. It had suffered engine failure, the weather was closing in (as was night) and generally speaking the two young men aboard were in some trouble. Our crew reacted quickly and it was a happy ending. All that training came into play.

In September our boats were out nine times - Volunteering and doing their job Professionally.

In September, after 17+ years of service, *MV Danial Thain* sailed from Port Stephens for the last time. A large farewell was organised for 6 September. However those westerly winds were blowing their hardest so a scaled down procession took place on Thursday 7 September.

She was colourfully decked out and sailed proudly up the Bay led by the Water Police and other Marine Rescue Vessels. The RFS Fireboat gave her a traditional Water Cannon Salute as she left the Marina.

On-board for her trip to Brisbane were two of our current boat crew and former Skippers of DT, Ken Johnson and Sue Freeman. Travelling behind on PS31 were many other former Skippers saying farewell to our faithful old lady.

She never missed a beat up to Brisbane - as we would expect. Her new owners (ECA Maritime College, Brisbane) under an agreement has returned DT to the original colours she served in for many years (orange superstructure). She looks very proud.

Coxswain training on DT commences during the first week of October. We wish her and all who sail and train on her our very best wishes.

The summer Boating Season is about to start. We are ready to perform our duties. Good batteries, serviced engines and fresh fuel will certainly help.

We trust that all our friends in the RFS will remain safe over the coming summer months.

**Tony O'Donnell**



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## EMERGENCY SERVICES LIAISON OFFICER

### EMERGENCY SERVICES LIAISON OFFICER

As you will all be aware, this position was established by the Unit Commander earlier this year following the Port Stephens Local Emergency Management Committee's (LEMC) establishment of our Command Centre as an Emergency Operations Centre.



The main purposes of the position are to provide a single point of contact within our Unit for other emergency service agencies within the Port Stephens LGA and to strengthen, and in some cases establish, closer working relations with those agencies.

Last month, in company with the Unit Commander, I attended my first meeting of the LEMC and had the opportunity to meet a number of representatives of emergency service agencies in attendance. Lee gave a very comprehensive presentation about our Unit and what we do and I think it's fair to say there was some surprise amongst those present about how big we are and the sort of incidents in which we have been involved. Certainly a number of people expressed interest in visiting our Base and I hope to be able to arrange that in the future.

Since 1 August we have been handling after hours communications for RFS Hunter Valley and I want to thank all radio room personnel for making that go so smoothly – which we knew it would. The feedback we have received so far from them is that they are extremely happy with the professional way we handle RFS incidents. There are, of course, some minor procedural differences between Hunter Valley and Lower Hunter but these are only minor and have not caused any undue difficulties for us. So thanks again for making this go so

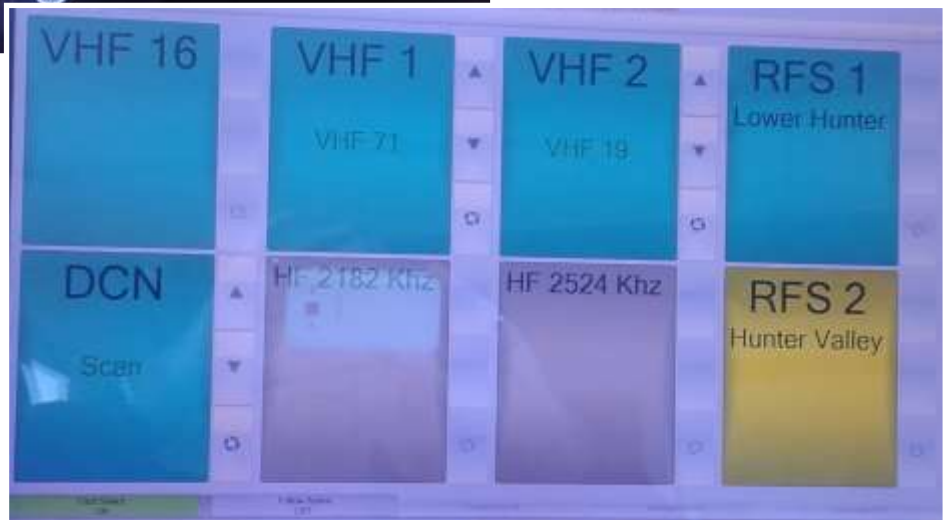
smoothly.

I'm pleased to say that Col Couper has volunteered (?) to take on the role of RFS Hunter Valley Liaison Officer, which leaves Ross Debenham free to look after Lower Hunter as he has been doing for some time. Thanks Col.

A reminder that there is a new Notice To Watchkeepers (number 6/2017) in the radio room covering RFS Hunter Valley incident handling on public holidays. In short, Hunter Valley's communications room will not be staffed on public holidays and we will retain responsibility for incident receipt for the whole of these days, but on a restricted basis. Please ensure you read NTW 6/2017 and that you understand how this will operate. Please contact me if you have questions.

Forthcoming events are-

**7 October** – nine members to participate in training module Work As A Team Member In An



Emergency Operations Centre. This is a requirement to qualify for Watch Officer rating. To be presented by Ken Hepplewhite, RFS Lower Hunter and me;

**11 October** - Unit Commander, OPSO, Col Couper and I to visit RFS Hunter Valley's premises at Bulga to meet them and to review our experience so far;

**15 October** – group of members to undergo additional RFS training at East Maitland to better equip us to provide assistance, as needed, in their Communications Centre during the forthcoming (or is it already upon us??) peak bushfire season.

That's my lot for now – keep smiling!

**Colin Cahill**





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## RFS LIAISON

### RFS LIAISON LOWER HUNTER

**Statistics For July:** Explosion 1, Community First Responder Clarence Town 7; Automatic Fire Alarms 4; Car fires 23; ambo assist 1; Motor vehicle accidents 5; Electrical fire 1; Yard fires 5; Pile burns 7; Bush fires 15; Grass fires 7; Rubbish fires 3; Shed fire 1; Chimney fire 1; Private alarm 1; Unit fire 1; Tree fire 1; Camp fire 1; Truck fire 1; House fire 1-**TOTAL 83**

**Statistics For August:** Ambo assist 1, Car fires 13; Pile burn 6; Automatic fire alarm 3; Yard fires 3; Bush fires 17; Smoke report 2; Community first responder Clarence Town 3; Grass fire 13; Tree fire 2; Mulch fire 1; Motor vehicle accidents 4; Log fire 1; Chimney fire 1; Shed fires 2; False alarms 3; Hazard reduction 1; Bonfire 1; House fire 1; Pallet fire 1; Oil spills 3; Wires arcing 1; Rubbish fire 1 **TOTAL 84**.

**Sometimes all is not as it seems.** A few shifts ago



Firebird 200 at RFS Lower Hunter.

I received a call from Fire and Rescue for an ambo assist on the New England Highway three kilometres south of Muswellbrook. No house number - just three kilometres south of Muswellbrook. After paging the brigade responsible I got back on the phone to F&R to see if there was a house number, only to be informed, "Don't worry

about a house number, the brigade would see the ambulance and police lights at the location". Fair enough when they got there, there were the lights as expected: Although reported as an ambo assist it was actually a very bad M.V.A, and the assistance the ambos needed was to get one of the victims out of a gulley, four metres off the side of the road. It just shows that we are only as good as the information we get from F&R. We should attempt to get as much info for the brigades as we can



RFS Tilligerry new building.

but sometimes it is impossible.

**RFS Tilligerry:** It was a big weekend for our local firefighters with the official opening of the brand new Tilligerry Rural Fire Brigade Station on Saturday 12 August.

The \$900,000 station was constructed by Port Stephens Council and features four truck bays, a meeting room, storage space and a kitchen.

This new facility will ensure volunteer firefighters have all the equipment and resources they need to carry out the important work of protecting their local communities from fire.

**Ross Debenham**  
**Lower Hunter**

### RFS LIAISON HUNTER VALLEY

With only short notice of a new challenge for the early morning / late afternoon shifts (and of course the overnight Watchkeepers) we launched smoothly into the task of the Radio Room handling the RFS Firecom work for the Hunter Valley Rural Fire Service. This area includes the Muswellbrook and Singleton Local Government Areas.

Following a briefing from Damian Honor of RFS Hunter Valley on 27 July, the Radio Room was ready to carry on the good work we offer Lower Hunter RFS. The translation of an emergency call to 000 into action by relevant brigades of the RFS (who are also volunteers helping their communities) is all part of our ethos of Volunteers Doing our Jobs Professionally.

Whilst the number of Fireline calls was a tad larger than anticipated, MRPS was again up to the task. The calling of brigades from the updated PDR book made life easy,

but I for one found the new geography wasn't a challenge thanks to Google Maps. However I learnt a different lexicon when it came to a more forested environment, complete with coal mines.

**Statistics for August:** Bushfires 5; Grass fires 11; CFR (Howes Valley & Bulga) 6; MVA 4; Car fires 1; AFA 1; Other 13; **Total: 41**

**Statistics for September:** Bushfires 4; Grass fires 7; MVA 6; Car fires 2; AFA 2; Other 8; **Total: 29**

Lee Uebergang, Tony O'Donnell, Col Cahill and myself will be meeting with the RFS Officers at Bulga on 11 October and will be able to update members on the requirements and feedback from our fellow volunteers at RFS Hunter Valley at the next Mess Meeting.

**Colin Couper**  
**Hunter Valley**

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## WELFARE

### WELFARE OFFICER

**Jan Cahill** has had a recent stay in hospital and is now the recipient of the latest version 'Pace Maker'. Word is that Jan is now so well and active that husband Colin, cannot keep up with Jan and her daily activities. Well done Jan and hope that all continues to go well for you.

**Steve Chauncy** has also been in hospital for a few days to have tests carried out. In one way good news for Steve and wife Julie, as the doctors have been able to identify the cause of the medical condition that Steve has had for so long. The other news, possibly not so good, is that Steve has to have open heart surgery performed very soon.

Steve and Julie, from all of your friends at Port Stephens we send our best wishes and for all to turn out well.

**Barry Hayes** has been on leave from his duties recently along with wife Barbara. They have both been enjoying themselves on a cruise.

However just after arriving home from their recent cruise, Barry had a series of Mini Strokes and required a stay in hospital. At the moment "Barry is going fine" (Barry's words) and just waiting to have more tests and examinations performed. Barry also wants to say thank you to all members for their concerns about his welfare. Barry, we are certainly thinking of both you and Barbara, and sincerely hope that all turns out well for you.

**Neil Hansford** has also had day surgery for an eye condition that he has had for quite some time. I believe that Neil was straight home from hospital and no resting for him, he was back into MR work as soon as he touched down. Well done Neil and we all hope that the surgery was a success.

**Shirley Clark** our very dear long time serving and committed member, has also had a rough ride health-wise' recently. Shirley has been having skin cancer procedures performed recently. However, after returning to shop duties, Shirley unfortunately picked up a severe infection, which has kept her housebound for many weeks. Shirley is now fully recovered and would like to thank all of the ladies from the shop and radio base who sent out a get well call to her.

**Bruce Shade** a long serving member has left us because of health problems. However, he along with wife Pat, often pay a visit to the base when they can and are also great at informing visitors to the Port as to the best views and coffee shop in the area. Thanks Bruce for still flying the flag as many past members do.

**Ron Lighton** is coming on well after having lower back surgery recently. Ron is now back at work but still not up to full speed. All the best Ron. Keep well and it will be nice to have you back with us when your health has improved.

**Jessica Lighton** (now I may have this wrong) however I believe that this would be our very popular young boat

crew's final year of studies at Newcastle University.

Jessica has been studying for a double Law Degree and over the past years has been doing very well with her marks that I believe, included Honours.

From all of your friends and members of Port Stephens, all the best Jessica.

**Sandra Scheuber** has not been well over the past few weeks and with the amount of work and running around she does for the gift shop, why are we not surprised.

However as I write this column both Sandra and Peter will be arriving home from a very well earned holiday. I believe that they have done, or are on, a cruise to parts unknown, then returning by air flight direct to Sydney. No doubt Sandra will have many stories to tell us and also a few more weeks off to recover from the holiday.

**To All Members on the Sea Sick List** that I am not aware of, and there may be many of you out there after one of the worst flu epidemics for years, take care and get well and see you all back on deck soon.

*Harold Gibson*

### Counselling Service

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

# Lighthouse Weddings



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## LIGHTHOUSE WEDDINGS

The weddings held during September have seen exceptional clear and sunny days. This has made very memorable days for the wedding parties - with Jenny and Peter Fitzsimons receiving many compliments.

At the start of the main season (October / November) the wedding team have updated decorations with a new white carpet runner and chair covers - and we now have different colour sashes available..

**Jenny Fitzsimons**  
**Wedding Co-Ordinator**



Wedding Setup with  
new white carpet



What a great place to volunteer



Natasha & Glen Marley of Nelson Bay  
17 September 2017



Katie & Geoff Beal from Umina  
2 September 2017



Prudence & Thomas Plummer from Turrumurra  
16 September 2017



## LIGHTHOUSE TRUST

### LIGHTHOUSE TRUST COMMITTEE

The Trust is in the process of upgrading signage around the Lighthouse Reserve. A new 'Welcome' sign greets visitors at the bottom of Lighthouse Road and directional and information signs are installed on the grounds.

The terrace below the Tea Room has been landscaped with white pebbles and plants in large pots. A great addition to the site.

An arborist has conducted an annual inspection of the grounds in regard to maintaining our Artificial Protection Zone, removing unsafe, dangerous and diseased trees. The work will be done with the authorisation and in consultation with Port Stephens Council and the Rural Fire Service and we are all mindful of the necessity to care for the flora and fauna on and around the Reserve.

I have been informed that the trees identified for treatment are not the type that koalas eat the leaves from.



Last year we fortuitously implemented our Bush Fire Artificial Protection Zone and Tree Management Program just weeks before a bushfire consumed the northern bush near the Bunker, causing the Reserve to be evacuated,

(except for the SARCC Radio Room).

Marine Rescue Port Stephens and the Trust are working together to safely lower the main flagpole in order to remove of the remains of the stranded

Australian flag on it. While the flag pole is lowered it will be painted and any item that requires repairing

or replacing will be carried out at the same time.

Fifteen students from Alesco Senior College WEA Nelson Bay visited the Inner Light, Museum and Marine Rescue Comms Room on Thursday 31 August 2017.

**Kevin Griffey**  
**Trust Chairman**

### GRANT APPLICATIONS

As noted in the August edition of Chatter – we had applied to Clubs NSW for a grant to support the construction of barge mounted dock facilities to provide storage for our crew and vessel equipment.

We have been successful with our application and have

We have also received \$5,000 from the Clubs NSW programme from Wests Nelson Bay and a further \$4,500 from Port Stephens Council towards the upgrading of the base PABX system to enable crossover to NBN VOIP capability. This upgrade will also include the installation of an air fibre link to Shoal Bay to allow for NBN back up connectivity. This work is in process at the moment.

There are no grants applications outstanding and none have been lodged.

**Julian Lyddy-Meaney**



received \$25,000 towards this important project from Wests Nelson Bay who have been strong supporters over many years. Once the works program is finalised this project will commence with expected completion prior to year's end.





## SOCIAL EVENTS

### SOCIAL EVENTS

The Trivia Night held on Wednesday 13 September, at the Community Hall in Norburn Ave Nelson Bay, was a great success. Seven teams, comprising over 50 members and guests, competed in five rounds of questions plus two sheets of pictures to identify.

The five rounds of questions were in different and obviously difficult categories - the difficulty displayed by one team who actually scored "ZERO" in one round (no names, no pack drill, Tony and Julian!) By the same token, the same team were the only team to score a "PERFECT 10" in a later round.

The two sheets of pictures to identify were of famous celebrities, and national flags. If you think you know a

the night saw the competitive spirit of some members come out to the fore. We once again conducted a 'bottle toss' where gold coins were lobbed/slid/thrown at two bottles of red and a very nice bottle of Chivas Regal Scotch whiskey. I don't recall who won them, but we managed to raise just on \$100 for MRPS in the process.



The winners of the Best Dressed table were undeniably the "Ladies in Red" who proved (did it need proving?) that you don't need a man to be successful! Well done Ladies!



fair bit about Stars and Flags.... think again!! Master of Ceremonies Frank van Druten (with a little help from an anonymous question setter) always manages to compile a list of questions that you think you should know, but under the pressure of a very competitive (sometimes



The Trivia winning team on the night were right up the back of the hall, out of the spotlight, capably managed by Nigel Waters (who managed to arrive 15 minutes late despite checking the start times on a number of



almost combative) environment..... it ain't so easy!

Great fun was had during the event, with quite a few laughs, and the occasional accusation of opposition teams using "Google" to supplement their sometimes lacking education. Nevertheless, there was no bloodshed, which significantly aided the cleaning up process at the end of the evening.

A short break from the questions about half way through

*(Continued on page 29)*



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## SOCIAL EVENTS ....

*(Continued from page 27)*

occasions!), with his 2IC Angela Tilling and an obviously intelligent ten-person team. Congratulations to all of you – it was a very well-deserved, but in the end quite a narrow win.

Prizes on the night were provided by the organisers (wine and whiskey), and a whole table full of loot that had been won at various Bingo nights by our very own Sandi Moxham (sadly Trevor and Sandi could not be with us on the night). A big thank you to Sandi..... you must be a very quick Bingo Dauber to win so many prizes.



This was another 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 Xmas Dinner (venue TBA) on Tuesday 12 December, and hopefully another “adventure outing” in the near future.

**Laurie Nolan & Frank van Druten**

### MRPS Social Calendar - 2017 schedule

Month	Date	Event	Comments
<b>NOVEMBER or DECEMBER</b>	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.
<b>DECEMBER</b>	Tuesday 12	XMAS Dinner	- At a venue TBA

Year 2017 Public School Holidays		
<b>Spring Holidays</b>	23-Sep-17	8-Oct-17
<b>Summer Holidays</b>	16-Dec-17	29-Jan-18



Boat Crew aboard PS31 John Thompson

## BIRDS AROUND THE BASE

### BIRDS AT THE BASE

#### **Little Corella (*Cacatua sanguinea*)**

The Little Corella is a member of the cockatoo family and is seen commonly throughout Port Stephens, feeding on lawns and parks or perching on overhead wires. The name Corella is believed to be derived from an indigenous language but the exact origin is unknown.



The Little Corella is a small white cockatoo, 35-41 cm in length and weighing 370-630 g. They are mostly white, with a fleshy blue eye-ring and a pale rose-pink patch between the eye and bill. In flight, a bright sulphur-yellow wash can be seen on the underwing and under tail. They have a large white crest. Both sexes are similar in plumage. Females are slightly smaller than males and young birds are similar to adults.

Little Corella feed in large noisy flocks. They feed mainly on the ground but occasionally forage in trees and shrubs. They have to drink twice a day. The most common foods are grains and grass seeds but some bulbs and fruits are also eaten. In rural areas they frequently feed on cereal crops such as wheat, barley and corn and can be an agricultural pest.

Little Corellas are thought to pair for life and will start breeding any time there has been a major rain event. The nest is usually in a tree hollow lined with wood shavings and is normally used for several years in row. The clutch size is two to four eggs and incubation takes around 25 days. Both sexes incubate the eggs and care for the young chicks. The chicks hatch naked and are initially totally dependent on their parents. Young birds fledge after six to eight weeks. Breeding pairs may nest in large colonies, and several nests may be found in the same tree.

Little Corellas are widespread throughout Australia but are not present in Tasmania. They often form large flocks which may include other cockatoo species, especially along watercourses and where

seeding grasses are found. They tend to roost communally in trees overnight, flying off to feed in the early morning and returning in late afternoon.

The Little Corella has benefited from European settlement and its range has expanded with land clearing and increased water sources. Planting of lawn grasses in urban parks and gardens and grain cropping in rural areas has contributed to an increased the birds' numbers. Their call consists of harsh, high pitched screeches and guttural croaks similar to the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo. Large flocks call simultaneously and the deafening sound can be heard several kilometres away. Little Corellas are also known for their noisy play and "showing off". They can at times be seen hanging upside-down from wires with their feet and bill.



Another very similar corella species that is often seen locally in company with the Little Corella is the Long-billed Corella (*Cacatua tenuirostris*). It is similar in size and plumage to the Little Corella, but is distinguished by having an orange-scarlet band across the throat, and the upper part of the bill being longer than the lower part. The crest is also smaller. Breeding and foraging behaviour is similar to the Little Corella but it is not as widespread in dryer areas.

The Little Corella and Long-billed Corella's conservation status is secure in all states.

**Neil Fraser  
Twitcher**



## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

# Service Anniversaries

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

### OCTOBER

Mike SMITH	15	Deniece GILLILAND	11	Stephen HARRIS	3
Jessica LIGHTON	7	Peter MERLINO	11	Doug HILLEBRAND	3
John KERR	7	Garry McKITTRICK	9	Brian HARROLD	3
Ann MATHON	7	Robert HARRIS	8	Gary DUCKETT	3
Colin CAHILL	6	Denise TAYLOR	8	Steve CHAUNCY	3
Peter FITZSIMONS	6	Pam SMITH	8	Julie CHAUNCY	3
Colleen SESSIONS	3	Lorraine SHAW	8	Neil KEARTON	3
Helen ARTHUR	2	Nola ROSS-SAMPSON	8	Julian LYDDY-MEANAY	2
Steve MARTINETTO	1	Barbara HAYES	8	Bob COGHLAN	2
Pete LINDWALL	1	Monica THOMPSON	8	Doug STARR	2
Pam CHURCHMAN	1	Joy DAWSON	8	Caroline LOGAN	1
Steven LINEY	1	Elain COOK	8	Colin SKELTON	1
		Denise OLSEN	8	Bernice RUIZ	1
		Sue LUPTON	8	Matt DOYLE	1

### NOVEMBER

Malcolm MILLIKEN	18	Neil FRASER	5
Sue FREEMAN	15	Paul SULLIVAN	4
		Colin COUPER	3

# Happy Birthday

Congratulations to the following members of the PORT STEPHENS UNIT with birthdays in October and November

### OCTOBER

Netta ANDERSON	Bernice RUIZ	Lloyd CROPPER	Deborah NOLAN
Nola ROSS-SAMPSON	Geoff WILLIAMS	Elaine COOK	Graeme ABBERTON
Brian WHEATLEY	Erica SMITH	Maureen WHEATLEY	Ron LIGHTON
Peter EDWARDS	Paul BUCKLEY	Barry TAYLOR	Doug STARR
Peter PHILLIPSON	Helen ARTHUR	Esme HULL	Geoff CLARK
David ROGERS	Pamela SMITH	Paul FARNILL	Debbie BUCKLEY
Sue LUPTON	Marg MORRISON	Pam CHURCHMAN	Stephen MURRAY
Roy DORWARD	Nigel EVES	Colin CAHILL	Jenny FROST
Ian JACK	Karyn MILLER	Julian LYDDY-MEANAY	Peter DENTRINOS
Neil HANSFORD	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Lynne JENSEN	Barry FITZGERALD
	Monica THOMPSON	Colin SKELTON	Lee RYMAN

# PORT STEPHENS WEATHER

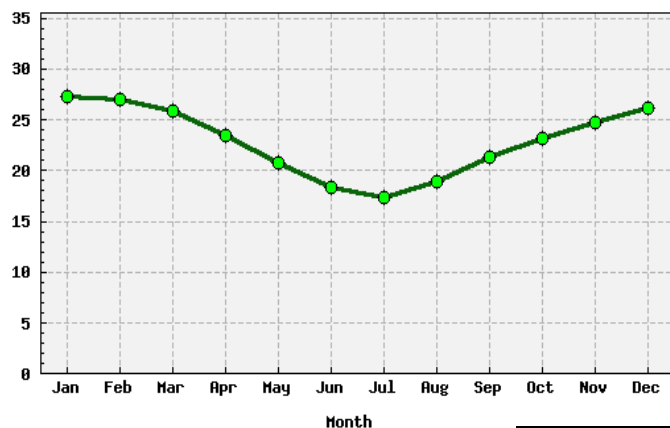
## Nelson Bay, NSW - August 2017

Date	Day	Temps		Rain mm
		Min	Max	
		°C	°C	
1	Tu	10.9	16.6	0
2	We	10	17.1	0
3	Th	10.8	18.5	1.9
4	Fr	12.1	17.5	4.5
5	Sa	11.1	20.3	0
6	Su	12.1	21.9	0
7	Mo	12.1	19.8	0
8	Tu	11.8	17.8	0
9	We	9.6	20	0
10	Th	10.5	21.2	0
11	Fr	12.2		0
12	Sa		19.8	0
13	Su	13.5	18.5	0
14	Mo	9.5	20.8	0
15	Tu	12	25.3	0
16	We	15.1	25	0
17	Th	12.2	22.8	0
18	Fr	14.2	17.4	0
19	Sa	10.1	15	0
20	Su	7.4	14.2	13.8
21	Mo	9.3		15.5
22	Tu	10.8	19	0
23	We	12	21.9	0
24	Th	12.4	17.8	0
25	Fr	11.4	16.5	0
26	Sa	10.4	18	9.7
27	Su	10.8	19.6	0
28	Mo	9	14.6	0
29	Tu	8.9	16.3	9.4
30	We	10.5	19	0
31	Th	11	15.3	0.9
Statistics for August 2017				
Mean		11.12	19.0	
Lowest		7.4	14.2	0
Highest		25.3	25.3	15.5
Total				55.7

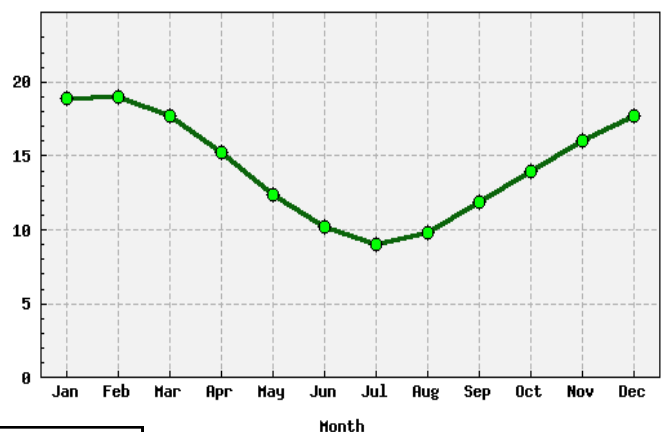
## Nelson Bay, NSW - September 2017

Date	Day	Temps		Rain mm
		Min	Max	
		°C	°C	
1	Fr	9.3	16	9.4
2	Sa	10	19.5	0.3
3	Su	11.4	23.3	0
4	Mo	13.8	21.7	0
5	Tu	12.5	19.5	0
6	We	14.5	20.1	0
7	Th	12.3	20.5	0
8	Fr	12.5	20.5	0
9	Sa	10.1	16.5	0
10	Su	9.8	20.1	0
11	Mo	11	21	0
12	Tu	13.5	25.2	0
13	We	16.4	31.8	0
14	Th	10.9	16.9	6.2
15	Fr	11.6	22	0.6
16	Sa	13.3	24	0
17	Su	11.6	17.5	0
18	Mo	11.5	21.8	0
19	Tu		24.9	0
20	We	11.6	20.2	0
21	Th	12.6	23.6	0
22	Fr	14	27.1	0
23	Sa	16.5	28.7	0
24	Su	19.7	32	0
25	Mo	18	33.3	0
26	Tu	16.2	21.4	0
27	We	16.1	22	0
28	Th	17	26.5	0
29	Fr	16.2	24.5	0
30	Sa	17.6	24.5	0
Statistics for September 2017				
Mean		13.50	22.9	
Lowest		9.3	16	0
Highest		19.7	33.3	9.4
Total				16.5

Nelson Bay - Mean Maximum Daily Temp (°C)



Nelson Bay - Mean Minimum Daily Temp (°C)



Australian Government  
Bureau of Meteorology



## IN APPRECIATION....

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

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

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

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



## NEXT MONTHLY MEETINGS

**TUESDAY - 17 October 2017**  
and  
**TUESDAY - 14 November 2017**

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

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

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