

PORT CHATTER



OCTOBER 2018

MARINE RESCUE NSW PORT STEPHENS UNIT

"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally"





MARINE RESCUE NSW – PORT STEPHENS UNIT

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

Location: Nelson Head, Nelson Bay, NSW

Email: base.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au

Phone: (02) 4981 3585

Fax: (02) 4984 1944

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 Protocol Officer Corporate Services Administration Officer Providore W.H. & S Officer Base Security Membership Rosters Building & Services Coordinator Supply Officer Data Base/Stats Technical Services Admin Support Historian	Iain Blackadder Harold Gibson Colin Couper Jenny Fitzsimons Angus MacKenzie John P Smith Loris Webster Heather Haskett Peter Baldwin Trevor Brighton Steve Harris Margaret Morrison Maureen Wheatley Lee Ryman Brian Richardson Peter Baldwin Robert Johnson Dieter Greiter Erica Smith Paul Farnill
Unit Commander Deputy Unit Commander Gift Shop Manager Events Coordinator Social Committee: Laurie Nolan, Frank van Druten 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 Robert Johnson Brian Bibbing	Colin Foote Peter Merlino Sandra Scheuber Dee Gilliland Tony O'Donnell Barney Pinney Trevor Moxham Neil Fraser, Frank Van Druten Laurie Nolan Elizabeth Francis Harold Gibson Ken Johnson Barney Pinney Bill Haskell Ross Debenham Colin Couper Ken Johnson Barney Pinney Laurie Nolan	Trust Management Sub-Committee Chairman Deputy Chairman Treasurer Secretary Committee Port Stephens Historical Society Welfare / Liaison Wedding Events Co-ordinator: Tours	Kevin Griffey John Reid Peter Merlino Ross Debenham Peter Fitzsimons Dennis Corr Harold Gibson Jenny Fitzsimons Lynn Gibson Vacant
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	Peter Merlino John Reid Iain Blackadder Iain Blackadder Penelope Highland Frank van Druten Peter Young Geoff Clark Peter Baldwin	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. 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. Sponsors can make tax-deductible donations to Marine Rescue NSW Port Stephens. All sponsorships will be acknowledged in <i>Port Chatter</i> if requested. Cover Photographs - Tony O'Donnell	
Unit Training Unit Training Officer Brian Bibbing Training Systems Officer Training Systems Officer Rescue Vessels Training Officer Course Presenters: Paul Buckley, Colin Couper Peter Dentrinos, Neil Fraser, David Rogers Provisional Member Mentoring	Angela O'Dea Jan Sami Brian Bibbing Angela Tilling	Welfare / Liaison Assistant Emergency Services Liaison	
Harold Gibson Jenny Fitzsimons Colin Cahill			

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 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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and events

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UNIT COMMANDER'S REPORT

UNIT COMMANDER

First Quarter Update

Three months into the Role as Unit Commander, with Peter Merlino as Deputy Unit Commander, and it is worth taking a step back and reviewing what has happened in that time.

Our Executive Team is in place with Col Couper as Admin Officer, Tony O'Donnell as OPSO, Brian Bibbing as Training Officer and Iain Blackadder as Community Relations Officer with Peter Merlino in a dual role as Treasurer.

Each of the Executive are there to support Members in whatever capacity they can and encourage communication and feedback from our Members.

Beyond the work done by the Executive the first realisation is the commitment and amount of time that our Volunteers continually put into our Unit. A large part of this support is not necessarily seen by other Members, or Visitors to the Base.

While risking the unintentional omission of some of our Teams we should recognise the effort that goes into keeping the Unit functional.

In general, this starts with attracting and encouraging new members for all areas of our Unit. This includes the Comms Centre, Boat Crew and Maintenance, Gift Shop, Cottage, Grounds Maintenance, General Repair Maintenance and IT support.



We need to continue to attract new members and at this stage we are running at least 3 Information Nights followed by new member inductions each year.

After induction, new members can roster for Comms Centre shifts and be eligible to commence formal training courses. Our Training Team of Product Specialists support these new members until they have completed their mandatory courses and demonstrated their practical skills to the Comms Centre Watch Officers. With successful completion of an Operational Assessment the new members reach the first rating level as Marine Radio Operators.

Similarly, on our Rescue Vessels there is a structured training program which progresses new members to a 'Crew Rating'.

Behind each of these functional areas there is a team maintaining our administration and member databases.

And of course not to forget our catering team who keep us nourished at internal and guest events.

While the primary function of our Unit is to keep two boats on the water and to keep the Comms Centre open 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. As part of our 24 hour operation, the Comms Centre manages RFS communication calls for Lower Hunter and Hunter Valley overnight. In recent weeks, on two occasions, this has been as high as 11 Incidents during one night shift.

Of course, we cannot do all this without strong financial support.

A significant part of our operating funds come from the dedicated members in our Gift Shop. The Shop is open seven days a week and staffed by our Volunteer Members. In addition to the Gift Shop we have an enthusiastic Fundraising Team. This team also provides an information interface to the Community at each of the events that we support, together with a number of Donation boxes at businesses in the Bay. We are also grateful to some long term financial supporters of our Unit and the Government Grants that we receive.

The Trust Reserve and Cottage receive numerous compliments from visitors to the Base and we are fortunate to have a committed Trust Management Committee to maintain the site in its pristine condition, making it an ideal location for weddings which form part of the Trust funding.

A few of the highlights from the first quarter which have either been published in the previous Port Chatter or in this issue.

- PS31 back in the Bay and operational after repairing damage from the storm earlier this year.
- PS30 fully Operational after some frustrating intermittent problems.
- New Dock Facility completed with a Donor thank you event.
- Presentation of a Grant from the State Government for final contribution to the Dock Facility.
- Donations received from 3 local community organisations.
- Donation received from one of our long term supporters.
- Comms Centre filled every shift and responded to all Incidents, both Marine and RFS.
- Rescue Vessels responded to every request for assistance plus CHC Rescue Helicopter training exercise.
- Comms Centre supported Lower Hunter RFS by providing relief Radio Operators during the Tanilba Bay/Mallabula fires.
- Guest speaker at our August Unit Meeting from Westpac Rescue Helicopter.

So for the future.

At our October Unit Meeting we are excited to have a presentation of a National Medal to Brian Carroll. This medal represents 15 years of service to the Community and will be presented by Marine Rescue NSW, Hunter Central Coast Director Jim Wright.

(Continued on page 7)



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Garlic Cream Sauce.

Wednesday – \$12 Feed choice of :

200gm rump steak, sides and sauce

Small chicken schnitzel, sides and sauce

Battered whiting fillet, sides tartare & l

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

Pasta of the day and side salads

Thursday – Family night Kids Eat Free

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

Regular Entertainment

Trivia Nights - Trivia challenge
the last Tuesday of every month

Live Bands

Mens & Womens Bowls

Visitors welcome

Phone club for details

Social Darts

Friday Evenings at 7.30pm

ATM

Keno

TAB Room

Big Screen TV

Children's Playground

*Phone the club for our
courtesy bus details.*

UNIT COMMANDER AND DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER

(Continued from page 5)

A second National Medal will be presented to Mike Pierpoint at a separate event in November. Details will be sent out regarding this presentation. Jim will also provide some insight into the future directions of Marine Rescue.

In November, our guest speaker will be John 'Stinker' Clarke following the release of his new books.

Our Social Committee have planned a number of events

for the remainder of the year, capped off by our end of year dinner.

The first three months have been an exciting time for me as your Unit Commander and I am honoured to have such a strong and committed team with me at Marine Rescue Port Stephens.

Colin Foote

"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally"

DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER

The first Regional Meeting for recently elected UCs and DUCs was held in September at Pelican Point and gave an opportunity for the Hunter Central Coast (HCC) Units new appointees to meet together.

Matt Smith, Member Services Manager gave an overview on membership statistics and the result from the recent members survey.

Jane Shirriff, Regional Training Manager, HCC gave an update on procedures for membership annual renewal and Cert IV new qualification requirements. There is an UC/DUC leadership workshop on 13 and 14 October 13 at Tuggerah Lakes.

Colin Foote, Colin Couper and Colin Cahill (The three C's) and I visited Hunter Valley RFS at Bulga during September and toured the emergency centre. It was noticeable how dry the landscape is and RFS commented that we are already in summer type fire conditions.

Welcome back John Reid, our previous Administration Officer, who has taken on the position of Grants Officer. John has also taken over the position as Deputy Chair of the Nelson Head Lighthouse Reserve Trust.

Will Scott has put his hand up to assist Steve Alta with donation boats in our Community. We appreciate the support that we get from these donations.

We continue to be well supported by the local community and I would like to thank both **John Dunn President of Salamander Shores Fishing & Golf Club** and **Alan Barnes President of**

Nelson Bay Bowling Club for their recent kind donations.

Peter Baldwin must have one of the most difficult positions in the Unit as Rosters Officer. Planned and unplanned holidays and/or last minute appointments due to illness make his role a challenge. It is important that we keep Peter advised of changes as early as possible.



John Dunn President of Salamander Shores Fishing & Golf Club

GIFT SHOP

I recently had the opportunity to help the ladies in the Gift Shop on one of their unpacking days and it was certainly an eye opener to see the effort these members perform in supporting this Unit along with their rostered shop



hours.

Thanks to Sandra Scheuber, Denise Olsen, Deb Buckley, Carole

Bastick, Shirley Clark, Louise Moore, Christine Rynne, Julie Chauncy and Mary Gutry.

Certainly a long day and this happens frequently at this time of year preparing for the peak season demand.

It was a pleasure to be involved and any member who can spare the time to help our Gift Shop members please let Sandra know.

SYDNEY BOAT SHOW

Jenny Fitzsimons and I attended the Sydney Darling Harbour Boat Show and supported the Marine Rescue



Peter Merlino, Jenny Fitzsimons and UC Central Coast Roger Palmer in front of New CC30

display on Sunday 5 August. We welcomed visitors onto the new Central Coast (CC30) a 10M NAIAD built by Yamba Welding & Engineering. We explained about

Marine Rescue's role in Saving Lives on the Water, with enormous appreciation from the public who also shared their real life experiences of being rescued by one of our units in NSW. CC30 is a very impressive rescue vessel.

PROMOTIONAL TRAILER

Peter Young has been instrumental in the acquisition and the internal / external fit out of our Promotional Trailer.

(Continued on page 9)

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DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER....

(Continued from page 7)

Our thanks to **Five Star Self Storage** at Taylors Beach for providing storage for the trailer. Peter has also fitted out



Peter Young with our new Promotion Trailer

the Storage Unit with marketing material, all the BBQ equipment and promotional items for ease of access for future events.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Thank you to all those members who have so far assisted on our fundraising days at Love Seafood, Bunnings BBQ's and Nelson Bay Bowling Club and those willing to help in the future.

Look out for upcoming events for our members to participate in to raise much needed funds to support our Radio and Boat operational requirements.



INNER LIGHT TEA ROOMS

The Inner Light Tea Rooms have completed renovations of the kitchen area with a fresh coat of paint, coffee machine, plumbing, electrical services and benches. Along with new fridges and cupboards it has transformed the kitchen into a pleasant and inviting area with many accolades received.

The tea rooms are now open 7 days a week from **9.00am till 4.00pm**.

JOHN THOMPSON GARDEN

The Nelson Head Lighthouse Reserve Trust has engaged a professional landscaper

Seachange Garden Design to rejuvenate the John Thompson Garden with 50m of retaining walls and over 100 new plants. This will commence on Monday 15



Tea Rooms Staff in their new uniforms



Kevin Griffey Chair of the Trust with Director Jane Parker Seachange Garden Design in the John Thompson Gardens

October, weather permitting, and take a week to complete.

FLAGPOLE

After the dramatic end to the historic wooden flagpole that had been in situ for over 60 years, it appears the watering system may have assisted in its demise and not necessarily the chain saw!

A new 12m aluminium flagpole has been sourced by

Harold Gibson and should be installed mid-October.

The new flagpole will be used for the Australian Flag on ceremonial occasions.

Along with other works there will be three additional security cameras installed covering the public car park, entrance walkway into the reserve and overlook the tea rooms / pathway towards the WWII bunker.

Also, an additional flood light will be installed to illuminate the entrance to the Member's car park and access ramp.

Finally, please note that the Social Committee article within Port Chatter has some exciting events coming up, including a visit to the Westpac Helicopter Service Maintenance Facility Broadmeadow and our Christmas Party on Wednesday 12 December at Nelson Bay Bowling Club.

Peter Merlino



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Holly & John (buyer)

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Christopher (vendor)

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Samantha Kirby
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Brody Gertz
Property Manager
Licensed Agent
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Gemma Chircop
Receptionist
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CORPORATE SERVICES AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

The Corporate Services team continues to ensure we are up-to-date with the administrative requirements of the Unit and HO. We are providing background compliance with WHS, ensuring Security, Maintenance, Supply, Membership, Provedore (Jenny and Debbie's culinary talents) and that rosters are created and filled. Special mention to Pete Baldwin for his understated hectoring to ensure that Comms Centre shifts are covered, 24/7. You've probably noticed that if a Watchkeeper can't be found, it's Pete to the rescue.

On a fine but cool Thursday morning two



Jason Gleadhill and David Glakin and the new Stevenson Screen.

representatives from the BOM arrived at MRPS to replace our ageing Stephenson Screen, and to review our Meteorology Training package. An accurate calibration check was carried out by Jason Gleadhill and David Glakin of our thermometers before our regular 0900 BOM reading was carried out. Then the breakdown of our dilapidated Stephenson screen began. We were fortunate that a similar screen was available from BOM storage, for the existing screens are much smaller and made of plastic (ugh!).

The simple replacement was made more difficult by fitting

a screen roof with round pegs into a base with square holes (which we are all very familiar with at MRPS).

Then followed a review of our training package which was met with high praise by the BOM. One item which was raised was that a change of two to three hectopascals over a three hour period was generally accepted as a change from a "steady" reading. Job well done.

Now we can all walk past our new Stephenson Screen with pride.

If you still have not renewed your MRNSW membership, due by 30 September, you are at risk of being removed from the Unit. Please contact me urgently at [@admin.portstephens](mailto:admin.portstephens)

[@admin.portstephens](mailto:admin.portstephens) or call me on 0437 584 383 if you wish to continue. There have been three e-mails sent to the address we have on file to those who have not renewed, so there has been a warning.

With the busy season about to begin, there has been a concerted effort to assist members through to their ratings. Congratulations to those who have reached MRO, Watchkeeper, Crew, Leading Crew and Coxswain status.

As well, a warm welcome to the new members who have completed the recent Induction.

- Ian Mullard
- Maggie Dominey
- Kylie Carson
- Steve Spear
- Amanda Sutherland
- Sharyne Williams

We look forward to seeing you in the Comms Centre, Cottage or Gift Shop, ensuring the Unit continues to provide service to the boating public (and the RFS) by "Volunteers doing our job professionally".

Colin Couper

COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER

As you will see throughout Port Chatter, it has been a big couple of months with a variety of promotional activities.

In the near future, we will have more events where the Unit's activities will be promoted in an effort to recruit more members and raise funds.

We will shortly be hosting two large groups of visitors to Port Stephens, the Prospect Caravan Club and the Recreational Vehicle Fellowship of Rotarians, with visits to both Nelson Head and the Rescue Vessels.

If you have a group interested in visiting the Comms Centre, please let me know and we can arrange.

Over the next few months, the Fundraising and Promotions team will be out and about at various events.

Keep an eye on the members Page of the Marine rescue Port Stephens website and sign up to help out when and where you can.

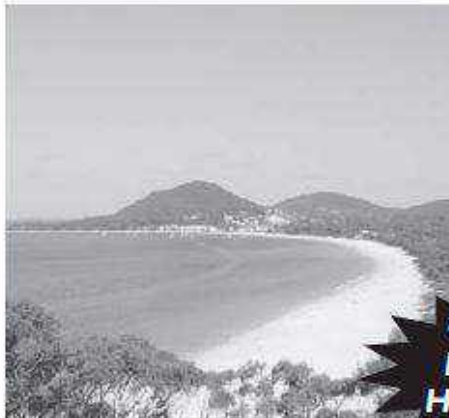
As you are no doubt aware, we need to recruit more volunteers to train as Marine Radio Operators and as Boat Crew. Our efforts at all our events are focused on this and who better to talk about our activities than you, our members. So, if you see an event already has the required number of volunteers, simply come along to an event and talk to people about the good work we do and the enjoyment you get from being involved in Marine Rescue.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who has spent time in the last couple of months on promoting our Unit. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Iain Blackadder

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at the Lighthouse



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GIFT SHOP AND FUNDRAISING



Gift Shop, for their support with extra shifts, and making themselves available for our big days of pricing and unpacking our stock.

Sandra Scheuber

The school holidays are fast approaching and our shop is gearing up for our busy season. We have new stock arriving all the time keeping the ladies busy pricing our goods.

Some of our customers have already started their Christmas Shopping and I hope to see Marine Rescue members also in the shop doing likewise for their loved ones over the coming months.

I would like to thank all the ladies, who volunteer in our



FUNDRAISING OFFICER

Love Seafood Festival and Bunnings BBQ's

On the weekend of the 18/19 August, in addition to an early morning callout for our Rescue Boat crew, Marine Rescue Port Stephens had two busy PR and Fund-Raising days.

On both days, we supported the Love Seafood Festival at D'Albora Marina. The Saturday team were kept busy all day giving information to visitors on who we are and what we do and in doing so we picked up a couple of new members and gave out several Radio Club application forms. We sold a huge number of raffle tickets and took plenty of donations in the collection boats.

On Sunday, the team awoke to a day of wild winds but not to be deterred, they held out with the marquee anchored to our trailer and with bricks on the tables to stop the wind blowing everything away. The fundraising team again talked to many interested people and sold more

raffle tickets.

Our Rescue Boat crew, fighting the wind, managed to put Port Stephens 31 in a great spot for the general public to visit and learn what a great crew we have and what they do.

On Sunday, at Bunnings we had a second crew fighting the wind trying to stop the Marquee and the BBQ joining the fire fighters just down the road.



The BBQ team were out again on 16 September for another very successful Bunnings BBQ.

Thanks to our members who supported the Unit in these activities. Your hard work is much appreciated.

Peter Young

OPERATIONS

OPERATIONS OFFICER

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

As we head to what is our busy season I would like to focus on what we do and how we do it both for our Marine Rescue members and people outside our organisation.

Our Mission is Saving Lives at Sea.

Our two methods of delivering the mission are the operation of the 24/7 Comms Centre and having two available rescue vessels capable of being tasked to assist those requiring help out on the water.

As an example, a small vessel with two adults and two

Our volunteers maintain this watch on these frequencies 24/7 365 days per year.

So our friends out on the water with a flat battery are able to immediately call for assistance through the Comms Centre. The trained Radio Staff collect all the details necessary (where, what, who and the problem) to facilitate speedy rescue.

Following rigid procedures, the Watchkeeper will immediately contact the Water Police with the details of the emergency. The NSW Police are responsible for all Search and Rescue operations within the state. They have the option to deploy their own assets or to task Marine Rescue to assist the distressed vessel.

If they task Marine Rescue Port Stephens the Watchkeeper next contacts the Duty Callout Officer. These are a small group of volunteers who are on-call 24 hours per day. They will contact boat crew members to go quickly to the rescue boat and prepare to assist the vessel off the coast.

The Duty Skipper (who also is available 24/7) assesses the risk of the task and decides which

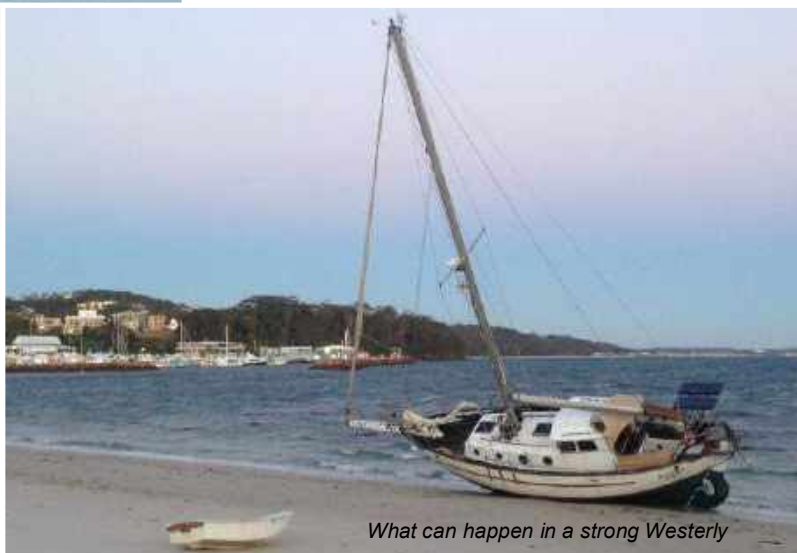


A distressed vessel being towed to safety.

kids on board heads out off the coast for a day's fishing. Their boat is well maintained and they have all the required safety equipment. When they decide to head home after they have caught enough fish, they find their battery for some reason has failed (it happens).

They are in no immediate danger however unlike breaking down on the side of the road they are restricted to their boat. As time goes on the weather changes and the light starts to fail, they start to realise that the enjoyable day is suddenly starting to turn sour and that they are in trouble.

Our Comms Centre's primary function is to monitor the distress or calling frequencies used by boaters on the water. Naturally they are beside a telephone all the time.



What can happen in a strong Westerly



PS31 the John T. Thompson slipped for maintenance.

vessel to use and the size of the crew required to handle the rescue.

In the intervening period, the Comms Centre keeps in constant contact with the disabled vessel keeping them informed of the actions underway to get them help. The Watchkeeper also keeps abreast of the situation in case events are changing – for example deteriorating weather.

Once the disabled vessel is returned safely to port, a debrief of the task is conducted by the Marine Rescue Skipper so that we can celebrate what went well and

(Continued on page 15)

OPERATIONS... AND BOATS OFFICER

(Continued from page 14)

identify areas where we could do better next time. That's how we improve our performance and work harder at delivering our mission.

Rescues fall into many categories from a simple breakdown to a full-scale May Day call from a vessel which is in imminent danger.

Our members are fully aware that we do much more than what is described above, however our Mission of Saving Lives at Sea is paramount and takes precedence over everything we do.

Tony O'Donnell



MARINE INCIDENTS MANAGED BY OUR COMMS CENTRE	
Statistical Type	Activity YTD
Marine Incidents Managed	160
RFS Incidents Managed - Comms	777
Total Incidents Managed	937
Our Boats were Tasked	70 Times
Radio Calls Made	12,000
Telephone Calls Made	11,000

BOATS OFFICER

Well at last things are coming together down at the dock.

The shed pontoon has arrived and is slowly being set up by the maintenance crew. The boat crew have moved



their personal gear from their cars to the racks inside the shed and they now have a rack of wet weather gear to wear when conditions require a cover up.

Codi K 2 has had its engine problems fixed by **Bay Boat Sales** and external power from the shed 240-volt supply is now maintaining the boats' batteries at 12 volts.

The pride of the Fleet, PS31 the John Thompson is doing all that is asked of it since it came back from Steber, after the storm damage, with all assists being carried out successfully.

The photos show the confined space around the engines in which the maintenance crew must work each Wednesday morning to carry out the weekly checks.

Ken Johnson



18 August Fire at Oyster Cove from Soldiers Point.



Another wonderful sunrise from the Comms Centre



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COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND NELSON HEAD TRUST

MARINE RESCUE PORT STEPHENS IS PART OF A WONDERFUL SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY.



Recently, we received a cheque for \$1500 from the President of Nelson Bay Bowling Club, Alan Barnes (*photo above*). The donation was gratefully accepted by our Unit and Deputy Unit Commanders. Nelson Bay Bowling Club also supports Marine Rescue Port Stephens in other ways including Friday Night raffles.

In addition, we also received a very generous donation of \$1000 from John Dunn President of Salamander Shores Fishing & Golf Club (*photo left*).

Keeping Marine Rescue Port Stephens operational is an expensive business. Every year we need to raise about \$150,000 in excess of the State Contribution to meet our ongoing costs and to secure the future.

Not surprisingly our largest cost centre is keeping our

boats on the water - including meeting fuel costs. This year we estimate that our fuel costs will be more than \$25,000. Maintaining our boats to the standard where they are always available is, as you can imagine, not cheap.

Then there are the costs of running the Comms Centre 24/7/365 – electricity costs for us as for everyone are high.

Other costs include training, water, telephone, IT, repairs, marketing etc.



None of our members are paid (all volunteers) which naturally helps us contain our costs. Cost control is high on our agenda.

We are blessed with

a number of generous benefactors who anonymously contribute to our income. Then there are a number of organisations and clubs who support us so well.

We are very gratefully for all the support we received from our local community.

Iain Blackadder



TRUST CHAIRMAN

The Trust welcomed John Reid as its Deputy Chairperson at its meeting on 13 September. John takes over from Peter Merlino who has and continues to be a very strong supportive member of the Trust and will continue in the role as Treasurer.

With great sadness we were forced to remove the much loved main flagpole on 26 July. The Flagpole was lowered for maintenance and repairs but it contained wood rot and was deemed unsafe to be re-erected. Arrangements have been made for a new aluminium flagpole to be purchased and erected on the same location.

100 students (pictured) in years one and two from St Philips Primary School visited the Inner-Lighthouse Museum and grounds on Tuesday 14 August. The School conducts this excursion annually where students explore and write answers to prepared questions about the early settlement of Port Stephens, the purpose of the Inner Light house, the lighthouse keepers' and the lifestyle in the early 20th Century. All the students were particularly bemused by the large wall mounted telephone in the hallway of the



Museum. Bob Harris, Peter Fitzsimons, Ross Debenham and myself guided the students through the Museum and its displays and assisted them with answering the

questions in their assignment. The other highlight was visiting the Marine Rescue Operations Room to see and learn what the Marine Rescue Port Stephens does for local boaters. The School gave a generous donation to the Trust for our time and effort with helping the students with their assignment.

The Tea Rooms was closed from 3 to 7 September while the kitchen and storage areas were renovated. These renovations will improve the kitchen working area. A special thanks goes to Bob Harris and Steve

Chauncy for their help improving the facilities.

We are looking for more Museum Attendants for the Museum, please ask you family and friends to come and join us and enjoy the serenity of the grounds.

Kevin Griffey



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VISIT TO TOWNSVILLE AND YEPPON

SOLAS IN THE TROPICS

During a recent trip to Townsville (and back), I called into the VMR411 Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Station



QF11 at Yeppoon.

There, Gordon Fry, the Duty Officer for the day, kindly showed me around their facility which is quite large and includes a radio room (naturally), administrative office, bunk room, kitchen, showers and a huge training/meeting room to cater for their 120 members.

Very much involved with AMSA and their application of commercial standards, they do face the same bureaucratic necessities that



the OPSO and Boat Manager can relate to.

The vessels they have are:

Gormans Removal Rescue 11.1m Kevla Cat with twin 300hp Suzuki Outboards.

RV McDonalds 5.8m RIB - 140 hp Suzuki outboard and a Toyota Land Cruiser 4x4 to pull the trailer.

RMH Rescue 10.5m RIB with twin 350HP Yamaha outboards.

While not a 24/7 base, they are open 0600 to 1800 Friday to Monday and 0900 to 1500 Tuesday to Thursday. Calls outside these hours will be heard by Coast Guard Keppel Sands.

Being inside the Great Barrier Reef, they may be asked to travel up to 50nmi for an assist and use the Cat for that task.

Coast Guard also needs to raise funds but apart from the normal fund raising activities, it is done by the equivalent of our MRS service. However, they operate in the same manner as automobile clubs do for motorists. Various categories of membership allow different levels of coverage. For example, PWC Jetskis and vessels under 3 metres have coverage out to the Keppel Islands for \$50, Limited Recreational category covers a 33nmi radius for \$70 and Open Recreational a



radius of 55nmi for \$105. As Marine Assist members, contributors also receive discounts from sponsors and reduced rates when attending courses held by the Coast Guard, e.g. coastal navigation and radio.

Of course, this does not prevent them from responding to Maydays and Pan Pans.

They also receive government support for their vessels but nowhere near what MRPS receives from the State government via MRNSW. It can be limited to \$200k for replacement or refurbishment every 15

years. We are blessed.

But the same ethos applies to the members at Yeppoon. Volunteers giving of their time to ensure Safety of Lives at Sea.

COLIN COUPER
Wandering Watchkeeper

Lighthouse Weddings



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Wedding Co-Ordinator

Mobile: 0491 135 102

Email: weddings.portstephens@gmail.com.

LIGHTHOUSE WEDDINGS



Left: Kaylee and Joel Sharp,
1 September



Right: Charlotte and Benjamin Way
from Medowie,
2 September



Left: Jessie-Lee and Martin Day
from Newcastle, 7 September

Below: Georgia and Nathan Foody
from Orange, 11 September



The Weddings are now in full swing after a Winter Break of four months. We have had six booked for September, of which we have had four, with two more on the last weekend. We have 12 more weddings to see 2018 out, with 14 already booked for next year.

Thanks again to all who help make it a Special Day for our lovely Brides, Grooms and their Guests.

Jenny Fitzsimons

Wedding Co-Ordinator



Convergent of Waves on Fingal Spit

Photo Raffle

Valued at \$500

3 for \$5

Tickets available in Comms Centre

Photo donated by Rodd Owen (www.owenphoto.com.au)

8 November at Soldiers Point Bowling Club

At John 'Stinker' Clarke's latest book launch

JOHN “STINKER” CLARKE AND NEW DOCK FACILITY

John “Stinker” Clarke is a well-known Radio and TV personality, Author, Public Speaker Journalist and a famous fishing commentator in the Hunter, Port Stephens and Central Coast regions (and beyond). His love of the Port Stephens area and its history gives rise to so many spellbinding tales he tells and publishes.

John Clarke is also a long-time supporter of Marine Rescue Port Stephens. On 8 November John is launching his latest two books simultaneously – *The Outer Light* and *Clarabelle*. To coincide with the book launch John along with renown photographer Rodd Owen has donated a framed dramatic seascape photograph *Convergent of Waves on Fingal Spit* for Marine Rescue Port Stephens to raffle.

The book launch will be held on Thursday 8 November at 1400hrs at Soldiers Point Bowling Club. Everyone is invited to the book launch and to hear one of John “Stinker” Clarke’s wonderful presentations.

Raffle tickets to support Marine Rescue can be purchased on the day at Soldiers Point Bowling Club and beforehand at our Radio Base, Gift Shop and on other occasions you see us in the local area. Tickets are three for \$5.00.

The photograph by Rodd Owen was taken at Fingal Spit where the waters converge. Rodd was waist deep in the

water to be able to capture this amazing shot.

You can see more of Rodd’s work on his website <https://owenphoto.com.au/ocean-wave-art/>



From left: DUC Peter Merlino, John “Stinker” Clark, Rodd Owen and UC Colin Foote

Read about John’s book release on his website <http://www.stinker.com.au>

Marine Rescue Port Stephens is very grateful to the support from Stinker and Rodd. So generous.

Iain Blackadder

NEW DOCK FACILITY

Marine Rescue Port Stephens on Monday 13 August officially opened their new dock facility at Nelson Bay and thanked the many sponsors who made the project possible.

This new facility is designed to assist Marine Rescue crews to respond quicker to emergencies on the water and to assist with the management and maintenance of the two commercially registered rescue vessels.

The pontoon was constructed by the Varley Group located at Tomago. One of the Patrons of Marine Rescue, Bob Baldwin, who is also employed by Varley, made the comment that the construction was to “Military Standards”. This construction will serve the Port Stephens Unit for many years to come.

Unit Commander, Colin Foote, thanked all the sponsors for their very generous donations which made the important project possible. He especially thanked the Varley Group for producing a quality building far beyond the dreams of Marine Rescue.

Marine Rescue vessels were tasked 53 times to assist those in trouble on the water, in the first 6 months of this



year. Until now crews have been exposed to the elements to prepare for the rescue, during briefings and

(Continued on page 25)

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NEW DOCK FACILITY.... AND GRANT FROM NSW GOVERNMENT

(Continued from page 23)

debriefings. For the first time foul weather gear can be stored at the boat dock ready for crew to use.

In 2016 crew members who were injured during a rescue were treated in the open on return to the dock. This won't happen in the future should the need arise.

This completion of this project adds a further dimension to the professional response of the Unit's Rescue Boats.

Iain Blackadder



MARINE RESCUE PORT STEPHENS RECEIVES A GRANT FROM THE NSW GOVERNMENT.

The Hon Catherine Cusack MLC visited us in August to advise Marine Rescue Port Stephens that we were successful in receiving a \$10,000 Grant from the Premier of NSW to finalise the funding of our Crew Dock Facility.

The Dock Facility has already proved its worth with the Boat Crew able to prepare in an orderly manner for a night rescue close to Broughton Island recently. Preparations for this tasking were able to be made by the Crew inside the Dock Facility



Above From Left: UC Colin Foote, Hon Catherine Cusack MLC, Jaimie Abbott Port Stephens Councillor, Shirley Clark, Tony O'Donnell, Monica Thompson and Ian Peacock.



Iain Blackadder

instead of previously having to be conducted either in the Open or on-board our Rescue Vessel.

We are extremely grateful to the NSW Government for providing this Grant to enable us to complete the funding of our new Dock Facility.

WELFARE/PROTOCOL OFFICER

WELFARE AND PROTOCOL OFFICER

Ian Peacock - Its very nice to see Ian at the September unit meeting after recent hand surgery. Although still in a well supported cast, Ian reports that all is on the mend and he is back doing shifts at the Comms Centre.

Pam Smith - one of our long time members and hard working gift shop volunteer, Pam is recovering from recent eye surgery. Nice to hear that all went well for you and you are back on deck.

Pam Walters - Pam has had a lot of problems recently with skin cancers and has had a fair amount of surgery performed. On top of all of her own medical problems, Pam's husband has been in hospital and Pam is showing her skills as his nurse. Well done Pam and we all send our thoughts of support to you both.

Peter Detrinos - has also had surgery recently to pin and screw a very nasty break in one of his fingers. Peter is still on duty with Marine Rescue and looking forward to removal of his splints.

Rod Reeson - our Rodney has also been far from his happy self in recent times because of health problems. Rod has been in hospital with a very painful back condition. Rod informed me that just after recovering from the back condition, he then contracted a virus in his lungs and made life very difficult. However he seems to be back on track now and just keeping a low profile for a while. All the best Rod and also to Sue for looking after you.

Laurie Nolan - at our September unit meeting I spoke with Laurie and commented on how well he was looking. However Laurie informed me that although he and Deb had been on a caravanning holiday, he had also been under the knife with two eye operations and one that did not go all that well at the time. All the best Laurie and I hope that all continues to improve for you especially with the busy boat season approaching and yourself as a duty skipper.

Rena Gardnier - another hard worker from the Marine Rescue Port Stephens gift shop. Rena has also been in hospital for eye operations, all going well Rena reports and is now looking forward to an overseas holiday. All the Best Rena and have a great time away.

Ian Drummond - Ian reports that he has been in hospital for breathing tests and other investigations. He is

now home and catching up on his Marine Rescue work. All the best Ian and also your faithful nurse Corrie.

Shirley Clark - has been on the sea sick list again. Shirley reports that she has had a relapse of a lung infection that she had a few months ago. Daughter Sharon has been staying with her for the past week making sure that mum was well supported. Shirley reports that she is well on the mend and will be back on duty by the time you receive this edition of Port Chatter. Take your time Shirley and get well, all thinking of you.

Neil Hansford - was in Ireland on a business trip when he suffered a detached retina. Neil had a temporary surgery performed in Ireland, then caught a flight home the next day. On arrival arrangements were in place for Neil to have immediate surgery performed to save the sight of his eye. Neil has had three more operations since this to restore his eyesight. At the present time he reports that the outcome is good with the end result, fingers crossed, no more eye problems. Neil all the best, it certainly must have been trying for both yourself and wife Sue.

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.



RFS LIAISON HUNTER VALLEY AND LOWER HUNTER

RFS LIASON HUNTER VALLEY

On 7 August, Colin Foote, Peter Merlino, Colin Cahill and I ventured to Bulga for a 'Meet and Greet' with the new



Manager of Hunter Valley District, Paul Best. It was also an opportunity to catch up with long-time friend of MRPS, Ken Hepplewhite who has transferred from Lower Hunter. We were introduced to John Cox, who many overnight Watchkeepers have communicated with as A night Duty Officer.

The day was well spent reviewing the horrendous three months HV spent fighting (or rather directing the course of) three major fires in the Yengo National Park. It was an exceptional period of furious activity for the HV crews,

helped by many from out of area RFS and other services such as NSW Forests and NWPS, plus aerial assistance as a result of the declaration of a Section 44 incident.

Due to the current un-precedented dry period, the fire season has been moved forward to the 1 September in HV. It is an indication of the concern for the dangers ahead this summer for our fellow volunteers in the RFS.

If you are in a potential bushfire area, now is the time to ensure you have your Bush Fire Survival Plan

up to date. To ensure you have the latest plan, visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/bush-fire-survival-plan

Colin Couper



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

Month		Bush	Grass	Structure	CFR	MVA	Car	AFA	Other	Total
Jul-18	HVRFS	6	5	3	1	2	1	3	3	24
Aug-18	HVRFS	1	5	0	0	4	2	0	9	21
Jul-18	LHRFS	34		7	8	14	10	2	9	84
Aug-18	LHRFS	46		1	1	11	10	1	15	85
Total for 2018		184	92	41	53	102	110	32	166	777

RFS LIAISON LOWER HUNTER

PAGER SYSTEM

Please refrain from opening up the pager system on two computer terminals at once as it can interfere with the pager system on both computers.

Similarly, do not exit the Pager System by using the X in the top right hand corner.

RFS OPEN DAY AT SOLDIERS POINT

On 22 September the Rural Fire Service opened up some of their stations to the public and get people to prepare their Bushfire plan for the coming fire season. I went along to



the Soldiers Point Brigade to take a look. People were treated to static displays, a sausage sizzle and a live display of putting

convince me of, is that every house should have a fire blanket in the kitchen. Please note that the fire fighter/s are kitted up in CABA gear. Danny the Captain informed me the members of the



brigade went to Lake Macquarie a few weeks ago for a Fireboat Handling Course.

Photo 1: Frying Pan on fire.

Photo 2: Fire extinguished using fire blanket.

Photo 3: Oil fire accelerated by application of water.

Photo 4: Extinguishing oil fire using Dry Powder extinguisher.

DON'T FORGET YOUR BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLAN IF YOU LIVE IN OR NEAR THE BUSH.

Ross Debenham





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AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER UNIT MEETINGS



Presentations at **August Unit Meeting** from top left:
Ben Van Der Wijngaart, Iain Blackadder, Peter
Baldwin, Richard Pizzuto and Sarah Charters.
September Unit Meeting below left and right: Brian
Bibbing and Krystyna Winslow.



BIRDS AROUND THE BASE

BIRDS AROUND THE BASE

Galah (*Eolophus roseicapilla*)

The Galah is a member of the Cockatoo family and is commonly seen throughout Port Stephens, feeding on ovals and parks or perching on overhead wires. The name Galah originates from the word "gilaa" from the Yuwaalaraay indigenous language of southeast Australia. Galahs are 35-38 centimetres in length and weight between 300-435 grams. They can be easily identified by the rose-pink head, neck and underparts, with paler pink crown, and grey back, wings and undertail. Galahs have a rapid, bouncing acrobatic flight, but spend much of the day sheltering from heat in the foliage of trees and shrubs. Huge noisy flocks of birds congregate and roost together at night.

The Galah is one of the most abundant and familiar of the Australian parrots, and is found in most areas of Australia, including some offshore islands. It has a high-pitched, splintered identifying call of "chill, chill, chill", using harsher screeches when threatened, fighting or just having fun.

Soft, muffled calls are used to communicate with mates and to initiate close contact.

Galahs feed on seeds in large noisy flocks, mostly from the ground, but also on mature seeds in trees such as wattle. They naturally feed on grasses, herbs, seeds, nuts, berries, roots, green shoots and leaf buds. They will sometimes eat insects and their larvae at times when additional protein is required, such as when breeding. However, Galahs today show a strong preference for cultivated grains, cereal crops and sunflower seeds making them agricultural pests in some areas. They may travel large distances in search of favourable feeding grounds.

Galahs are one of the few animals that have benefited from the arrival of European settlers to Australia. The clearing of land, planting of cereal crops and increased availability of water has led to large increases in populations and expansion into most areas of Australia. At the time of initial European settlement Galahs were found only in the semi-arid areas of Australia.

Galahs form permanent pair bonds, but a bird will take a new partner if the other one dies. They show affection to their mate by preening each other's facial feathers. The

nest is a tree hollow or similar location, lined with leaves. Both sexes incubate the two to five eggs and care for the young. Parents feed chicks by regurgitating their own food. Fledging occurs after six to seven weeks. There is high mortality in Galah chicks, with up to 50% dying in the first six months. Galahs will breed whenever conditions are suitable. In the wild they can live for up to 30 years and up to 80 years in captivity. Captive birds can learn to imitate the human voice and repeat simple phrases.

Despite their reputation for being somewhat of a pest or nuisance Galahs are actually highly intelligent, highly adaptable and live in complex societies. They are a sedentary bird with few natural predators and are not very territorial. They often share roosting trees and food sources, but with frequent minor squabbles. The Galah is well known for its



playful behaviour and at times is seen hanging upside down from a wire, flapping its wings.

This has led to cultural references with "galah" used as a derogatory or slang term, synonymous with fool or idiot, or for someone who likes to muck about. Because of the bird's distinctive bright pink colour, it is also used to describe someone in outlandish or gaudy dress.

Stella from the *Angry Birds* game is a Galah. The Australian representative team of footballers which played a series of test matches of International rules football against Irish sides in the late 1960s was nicknamed "*The Galahs*".

A flock of screeching, free-wheeling Galahs drifting over dry, dusty paddocks is one of the quintessential images of outback Australia. This was beautifully captured by John Williams in his song "*Galleries of pink Galahs*" from 1986.

*"Galleries of pink Galahs,
Crystal nights with diamond stars,
Apricots preserved in jars,
That's my home."*

There is probably a little bit of Galah in all of us.

**Neil Fraser
Twitchee**

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

SOCIAL EVENTS

By the time you read this, the Trivia Night of Wednesday 26 September will have been run and won. We trust those who attended had a great time. A big **Thank You** to Frank and Deb who organised this ever-popular event.

The next event is a visit to the **Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service Centre, at Broadmeadow**, on Tuesday 23 October. The kernel for this idea came when



their Chief Pilot, Graeme Nickisson gave an intriguing talk at our August Mess Meeting. All the Westpac Rescue helicopters from NSW are serviced at the facility in Broadmeadow, and there is always one there being worked on. It will be great to get to see one up close.

We will be transported to and from Broadmeadow by bus, so we will meet at the Port Stephens Coaches depot on Port Stephens Drive at 8.45am for a prompt departure at

9.00am. You can park your car in the front car park at the depot, but car pooling may be a good idea because of limited space.

The bus will carry a maximum 53 passengers, so it would be a good idea to get your name on the list before it fills up. Cost will be just \$10 to cover the cost of the bus, with MRPS tipping in the balance if we don't quite fill the bus. You can get on the list by paying your \$10 through the TryBooking site, an easy on-line facility that we have used previously. We will soon be sending an email to all

members, and a link will be provided. Simply click on the link, and you will be taken to the TryBooking website, where you can pay your \$10 (plus a .30 cent fee) which will automatically put you "on the list". As always... if you have difficulty with this process, please contact me (Laurie Nolan) and I will facilitate it for you.

Morning tea will be provided at the Broadmeadow service centre. We will also be stopping off for lunch on the way home to Port Stephens, which will be at your own cost. (Venue TBA).

The final event for 2018 will be the Annual Xmas Dinner, again this year in the Crows Nest room at Nelson Bay Bowling Club. This will be on Wednesday 12th December commencing at 6.30pm – more details later,

but please put the date in your diary.

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

Laurie Nolan (0406 747 847)

Frank van Druten (0474 981 274)

Laurie Nolan and Frank van Druten



MRPS Social Committee 2018 schedule

Month	Date	Event	Comments
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 26 September	Trivia Night	- At Senior Citizens Hall, Norburn Ave Nelson Bay - No upfront cost - Make a table, bring some friends
OCTOBER	Tuesday 23 October	Adventure Outing	- Vist to Westpac Rescue Helicopter service centre in Broadmeadow. - \$10 for bus fare, pay via TryBooking.com - Morning Tea provided at Westpac - We will be stopping for lunch (at own cost) on the way home.
DECEMBER	Wednesday 12 December	Xmas Dinner	- At Crows Nest room, Nelson Bay Bowling Club

Year 2018 Public School Holidays		
Spring Holidays	1 October 2018	12 October 2018
Summer Holidays	24 December 2018	28 January 2019

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.

OCTOBER	YEARS				
		Peter MERLINO	12	Julie CHAUNCY	4
Mike SMITH	16	Garry McKITTRICK	10	Steve CHAUNCY	4
Jessica LIGHTON	8	Monica THOMPSON	9	Gary DUCKETT	4
Colin CAHILL	7	Denise OLSEN	9	Stephen HARRIS	4
Peter FITZSIMONS	7	Elaine COOK	9	Doug HILLEBRAND	4
Colleen SESSIONS	4	Robert HARRIS	9	Neil KEARTON	4
Pete LINDWALL	2	Sue LUPTON	9	Julian LYDDY-MEANAY	3
Pam CHURCHMAN	2	Nola ROSS-SAMPSON	9	Bob COGLAN	3
		Lorraine SHAW	9	Bernice RUIZ	2
		Pam SMITH	9	Matt DOYLE	2
		Denise TAYLOR	9	Ben VAN DER WINJNGAART	1
Malcolm MILLIKEN	19	Neil FRASER	6	Sharon GRADY	1
Sue FREEMAN	16	Paul SULLIVAN	5		
Deniece GILLILAND	12	Colin COUPER	4		

Happy Birthday

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

OCTOBER	John LEE	NOVEMBER	Doug CRAIKE
Netta ANDERSON	Bernice RUIZ	Monica THOMPSON	Graeme ABBERTON
Nola ROSS-SAMPSON	Geoff WILLIAMS	Lloyd CROPPER	Ron LIGHTON
Brian WHEATLEY	Erica SMITH	Elaine COOK	Geoff CLARK
Peter EDWARDS	Paul BUCKLEY	Maureen WHEATLEY	Debbie BUCKLEY
Peter PHILLIPSON	Pamela SMITH	Barry TAYLOR	Stephen MURRAY
David ROGERS	Marg MORRISON	Esme HULL	Jenny FROST
Sue LUPTON	Colleen MALOY	Paul FARNILL	Peter DENTRINOS
Roy DORWARD	Rod MILHAM	Pam CHURCHMAN	Shane JAGER
Julia LYNCH	Mark KELLY	Colin CAHILL	Lee RYMAN
Ian JACK	Nigel EVES	Julian LYDDY-MEANAY	
Neil HANSFORD	Karyn MILLER	Deborah NOLAN	



Keeping your music alive

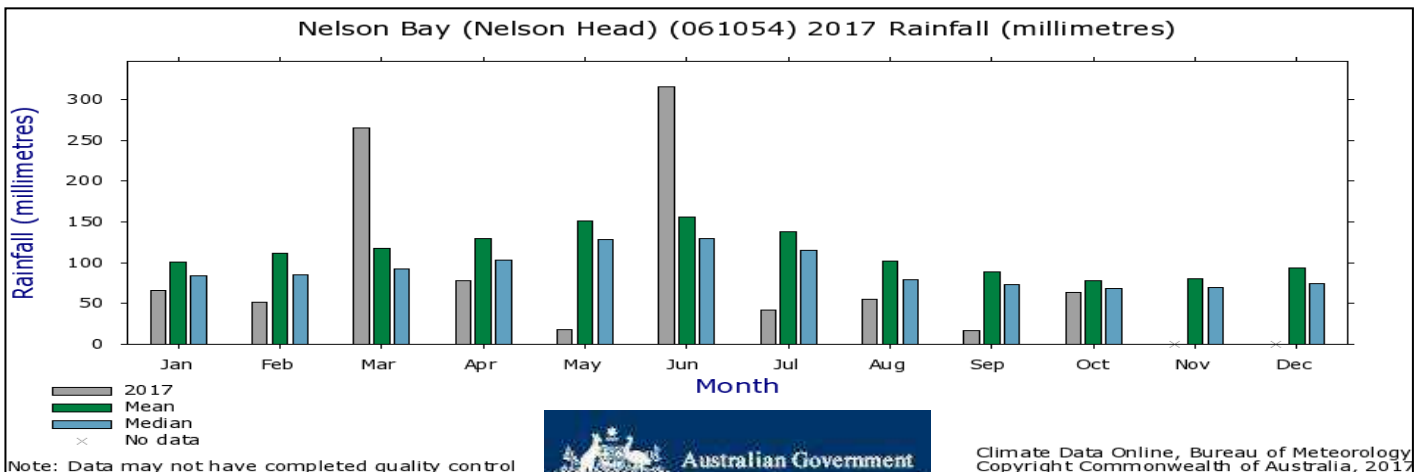
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PORT STEPHENS WEATHER

Nelson Bay, NSW - August 2018					Nelson Bay, NSW - September 2018				
Date	Day	Temps		Rain	Date	Day	Temps		Rain
		Min	Max				Min	Max	
		°C	°C	mm			°C	°C	mm
1	We	10.7	20	0	1	Sa	13.9	20	3
2	Th	11	19.5	0	2	Su	12	16.7	0
3	Fr		21.2	0	3	Mo	11.3	18	0.7
4	Sa	12.5	18.5	0	4	Tu	11	18	26
5	Su	9.9	19.5	0.1	5	We	10.8	20.2	10.5
6	Mo	12	17	0	6	Th	12.8	19.6	0.4
7	Tu	13.4	17.9	0.4	7	Fr	11	19.8	7.6
8	We	9.8	19.9	0	8	Sa	14.6	17.8	3.8
9	Th	10.6	18	0	9	Su	12.1	21.4	0
10	Fr	10.4	19.6	0.2	10	Mo	12.2	20.6	0
11	Sa	12	21.4	0	11	Tu	12	20.5	0
12	Su	12.5	16.5	0	12	We	10.9	23.2	0
13	Mo	9	17.8	0	13	Th	16	19.7	0
14	Tu	10.2	20.3	0	14	Fr	15.2	22.9	0
15	We	10.7	23.6	0	15	Sa	14.5	30.8	0
16	Th	14.5	22.5	0	16	Su	11.4	16.1	0
17	Fr	10.8		0	17	Mo	10	19.5	0.2
18	Sa	9	22.2	0.5	18	Tu	11.5	22.5	0
19	Su	11.8	16.9	0	19	We	15	25.6	0
20	Mo	8.5	14	0	20	Th	11.7	16.3	1
21	Tu	9.1	18	0	21	Fr	10.3	20.8	5.1
22	We	10.5	16.6	0	22	Sa	11.5	22	0
23	Th	9.8	17.6	0	23	Su	14.2	20	0
24	Fr	10.2	19.5	0.8	24	Mo	12.6	16.8	3
25	Sa	9.9	20.2	0	25	Tu	13	19.8	1.7
26	Su	13	19	0	26	We	11.9	18.9	0
27	Mo	9.6	16.5	8.3	27	Th	10.5	20.3	10
28	Tu	8.1	15.3	0.4	28	Fr	10.8		1
29	We	7.9	15.3	0					
30	Th	8.4	17.1	0					
31	Fr	10.4	19.4	0					
Statistics for August 2018					Statistics for September 2018				
Mean		10.5	18.7		Mean		12.3	20.3	
Lowest		7.9	14	0	Lowest		10	16.1	0
Highest		14.5	23.6	26	Highest		16	30.8	26
Total				10.7	Total				74





MARINE RESCUE PORT STEPHENS

"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally"



Our service to Port Stephens 2005-2017

People saved/ assisted	4,821
Rescues and assists	2,164
Value of vessels saved	\$245M+
Rescue Crew volunteer hours	21,900+
Radio Base volunteer hours	270,000+
Radio calls made/received	276,268
Telephone calls made/received	252,045

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

Volunteers saving lives on the water

IN APPRECIATION....

Contributors to this issue of *Port Chatter*:

Colin Couper, Ross Debenham, Colin Foote, Neil Fraser, Harold Gibson, Ken Johnson, Peter Merlino, Laurie Nolan, Frank van Druten, Tony O'Donnell, Jenny Fitzsimons, Maureen Wheatley and Peter Young. Other photos by Stephen Alta, Trevor Moxham, Ross Debenham, Tony O'Donnell and Peter Young. 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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		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
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		Inner Light Tea Rooms, Nelson Head
Radio Station		Port Stephens FM 100.9



NEXT UNIT MEETINGS

TUESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2018
Guest Speaker - Jim Wright Marine Rescue
NSW, Hunter Central Coast Director

TUESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2018
Guest Speaker - John "Stinker" Clarke.

All Members
Welcome

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

Important information on operational matters will be discussed.

Food and refreshments provided.

MARINE RESCUE NSW PORT STEPHENS RESCUE VESSELS CURRENTLY IN SERVICE

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

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

PORT STEPHENS RESCUE VESSEL *PORT STEPHENS 31*

JOHN THOMPSON



Specifications

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

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

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

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

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



Specifications:

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

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

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

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

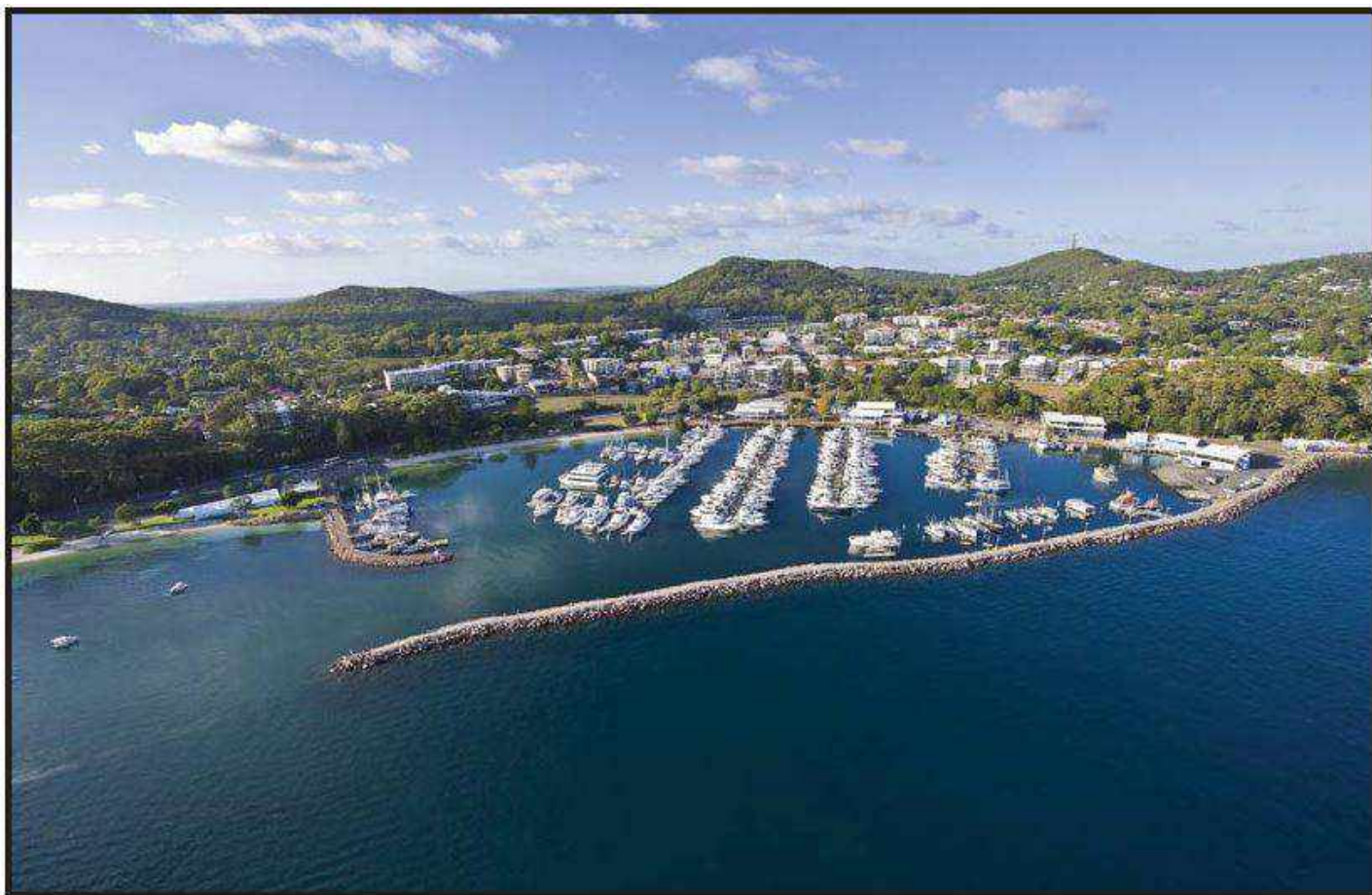


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