

PORT CHATTER

MARINE RESCUE NSW
PORT STEPHENS UNIT

FEBRUARY 2017

"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally"





MARINE RESCUE NSW – PORT STEPHENS UNIT

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VOLUNTEERS SAVING LIVES ON THE WATER

UNIT APPOINTMENTS

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

Unit Commander Lee Uebergang
Deputy Unit Commander Neil Hansford

Operations

Operations Officer

Duty Callout Officers

Communications Centre Manager
Ashes Scattering Coordinator
Rescue Vessels Manager
Chief Engineer
R.F.S. Liaison

Coxswains Mike Smith
Ken Johnson
Robert Johnson

Tony O'Donnell

Penelope Highland (Lead)
Neil Fraser
Angus MacKenzie
Jenny Frost
Steve Harris
Colin Foote
Harold Gibson
Ken Johnson
Bill Haskell
Ross Debenham
Sue Freeman
Noel Corcoran
Barney Pinney
Nigel Waters

Finance

Treasurer

Assistant

Peter Merlino

Vacant

Community Relations

Community Relations Officer

Public Relations/Social Media
Editor Port Chatter
Asst Editor Port Chatter
Marine Radio Service Database
Social Committee

Neil Hansford

Matt Darby
Penelope Highland
Frank van Druten
Graeme Abberton
Laurie & Deb Nolan
Frank & Deb van Druten
Sandra Scheuber
Tony Dawson
Vacant

Gift Shop Manager
Grants Officer
Fund Raising Officer

Education and Training

Unit Training Officer

Training Systems Officer
Rescue Vessels Training Officer
Course Presenters:
Neil Fraser
Richard Pizzuto
David Rogers

Brian Bibbing

Graeme Abberton
Richard Pizzuto
Peter Dentrinos
Mick Milton
Graham Pretty

Welfare / Liaison

- Assistant

Harold Gibson

Jenny Fitzsimons

Corporate Services

Administration Officer

Base Centre Services
W.H. & S Officer
Base Security
Membership

John Reid

Jenny Fitzsimons
Kevin Griffey
Graham Pretty
Stephen Harris
Loris Webster
Peter Baldwin
David Bacon
Paul Sullivan
John P Smith
John Vassallo
Margaret Morrison
Maureen Wheatley
Iain Blackadder
Lee Ryman
Brian Richardson
Peter Baldwin
Robert Johnson
Dieter Greiter
Paul Farnill

Rosters

Maintenance and Supply

Data Base/Stats

Awards and Recognition

Technical Services

Historian

Protocol Officer

Harold Gibson

Trust Management Sub-Committee

Chairman
Treasurer/Deputy Chairman
Secretary
Committee
Port Stephens Historical Society
Welfare / Liaison
Wedding Events Co-ordinator
Tours

Kevin Griffey
Peter Merlino
Garry Jensen
Peter Fitzsimons
Dennis Corr
Harold Gibson
Jenny Fitzsimons
John Cook

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. 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.

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Cover Photographs - Geoff Clark.

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

I trust everyone had a festive Christmas and New Year with family and friends and you are ready for an exciting and busy 2017.

Unlike previous years, your Executive Committee has continued its work over the holiday period with meetings in December and January to ensure key Unit activities are progressed. I'm very happy that the Executive Committee is well established with clear roles and responsibilities. For those who are unsure who is on the Executive Committee, let me list the members:

- Me
- Neil with the dual roles of DUC and Community Relations Officer
- Tony O'Donnell as Operations Officer
- Peter Merlino as Treasurer
- John Reid as head of Corporate Services
- Brian Bibbing as Unit Training Officer

My main focus over the last several weeks has been the Awards Ceremony scheduled for Friday 10 February at Soldiers Point Bowling Club. I won't elaborate on the details here but this will be a historic event for this Unit and Marine Rescue NSW with the award of the inaugural Medal for Valour and 20 other meritorious service and courage awards. Neil is doing a great job pulling all the arrangement together. I trust you have all received the invitation for all Unit Members and partners to attend. RSVPs were required by 31st January so please contact Neil if you missed the date but want to attend.

Although we didn't know it at the time, the multiple MAYDAY operation on 6 and 7 January last year was the start of a very busy year for the Unit; in fact the busiest year we have on record for the number of assists managed and number of people on board (POB)!! Although we haven't had an extreme weather event so far this year, 2017 is shaping up to be just as busy as 2016.

In addition to the "business-as-usual" Communications Centre, DCO, rescue vessel, Gift Shop and Trust activities, your Executive has hosted a number of visits.

The Edward C Dunn Foundation is and has been a proud sponsor of this Unit for many years. On 17 January I was pleased to showcase our rescue vessel capability for Mr Anthony Dunn and Mrs Eleanor Dunn.

Mr Stephen Bromhead LLM MP, State Member for Myall Lakes is a Patron of this Unit. On 18 January Neil and I briefed Stephen, visited the Heritage precinct and

provided a rescue vessel familiarisation for Stephen and his lovely wife Sue.



Jenny Fitzsimons, David Bacon, Scot MacDonald, Neil Hansford, Lee Uebergang

Until the recent Parliamentary reshuffle Mr **Scot MacDonald MLC** was the Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter and Central Coast. He visited on 20 January and Neil and I ran Scot through our operation and rescue vessels.

Several projects are delivering key outcomes for the Unit. Following on from my last Chatter report on the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Project, the self-assessment audit completed by Col Cahill and Team has been provided to Chief Inspector Tracey (NSW Police) to review. Several questions were raised around the process for accreditation of an EOC and access to funding for the necessary upgrade work. Liaison is ongoing.

Work continues on the ICT Upgrade Project, the Dock Facilities Project and the Fire Protection and Prevention Project. Full reports are included elsewhere.

I wish to publically acknowledge a donation received from **Mr Jeff d'Albora**, Director of Clippers Anchorage Pty Limited of \$3000 towards the purchase of an EPIRB training beacon for rescue vessel training. Thank you Jeff.

Finally I'd like to draw to the attention of all Members that the Executive has finalised policies on the Promotion Criteria for Radio Operations Ratings and the Criteria to Commence Rescue Vessel Training. These policies have been put on display in the Comms Room notice board.

Dawn and I hope to see all Members and partners at the awards ceremony on 10 February.

Until then

Lee Uebergang

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FROM THE BRIDGE..... AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER

I would normally expect December/January to be a quiet time - but busy with our safety of life on the water tasks.

Glad Sue and I grabbed a week out of the Bay over Christmas.

Lee Uebergang has asked that I again project manage our next major event. I will leave it to Lee to outline in his report the Commissioner's Commendation and Medal of Valour presentations. Lee will brief you on the event in his report and subsequent e-mails and invitations.

I will be assisted by much of the team who assisted at the PS31 Taree launching, its arrival into Port Stephens, its Commissioning then the De-Commissioning of PS40.

Dee Gilliland and Harold Gibson have major roles in the run-up to the event and on the day.

As usual the Directors and staff at **Soldiers Point Bowling Club** are bending over backwards to meet our needs on what will be one of our largest attended functions in the life of Marine Rescue Port Stephens.

At the end of the Ceremony morning tea will be served. I have arranged with SPBC to have a specially discounted lunch menu to encourage you to stay on and join with your friends and colleagues.

EARLY NOTICE

2017 will see the 35th Anniversary of the Unit (RVCP/ MRPS) on November 2, 2017.

We intend having a Dinner Dance for up to 250 people as a get-together and fund raising function.

In conjunction with our Social Committee we will pull together an organising team to work through the year to have a function that builds on our functions in 2016/17.

Neil Hansford



COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER

Art Union

The response to assist in running the art union and selling tickets has been quite disappointing.

However, we have sold over \$1,000 of tickets in the Base and Gift Shop over Christmas despite how busy both centres were.

Considering the overall poor sales, the Executive decided in December to give each member a book of tickets to sell to friends, relatives and neighbours.

You will pick up your book at the location where you volunteer - be that Comms Centre, Gift Shop or Cottage. Boat crew will be given theirs at either Wednesday maintenance or Saturday training.

With current sales in the Base and Shop plus member ticket sales we should exceed \$8,000 - which all stays with the Unit. I will endeavour to have any uncollected books at the February mess meeting.

February Mess meeting

Many of you have expressed an interest in the Experimental Kingfish breeding programme between Broughton and Cabbage Tree Islands.

Representatives of DPI and Huon will attend the February meeting to update you on the current success and expansion and the high number of current jobs that will be created in Nelson Bay.

Christmas Dinner

Congratulations must go to Laurie and Frank and the Social Events team for the great function. We had record numbers and having the luxury of ample 'circulating' space I have never seen so much camaraderie after dinner.

In a break with tradition the Unit paid the room hire and

gave each attendee a drinks voucher valued at \$7. This is as thanks for the outstanding jobs done by so many in 2016, a year which saw the introduction into service of PS31, John Thompson and a big lift in our standing within Marine Rescue and the community.

Politicians' Visits

January saw briefings for the following:

Hon Scot MacDonald MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Hunter and Central Coast

Steve Bromhead MP, Member for Myall Lakes (northern side of Port Stephens)

We are still finalising briefings for Meryl Swanson MP for Patterson and Dr David Gillespie MP for Lyne which we had hoped to do in February or March.

Public Relations

We have enjoyed good press and radio coverage during December and January as we promote safe boating and our membership vacancies.

NBN did an excellent interview with Tony O'Donnell about the Commissioner's Commendations to be presented. The Unit Commander appeared on ABC radio and Port Stephens FM 100.9 promoting our Unit and explaining how we function.

We are planning for major press to cover the presentations of the Commissioner's Commendations.

Matt Darby continues to keep us prominent in Facebook. Every time you share our posts it spreads the message to an ever-wider audience.

Ramp Visits

Loris Webster put together a good team to work alongside RMS at their Flare Collection and New4Old lifejacket

(Continued on page 9)

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS..... AND OPERATIONS

(Continued from page 7)

exchanges at Soldiers Point and Little Beach Ramps. The purpose of these days for us is to increase membership and sign up more MRS members.

Thanks to Loris, Steve Harris, Penelope Highland, Bob Coghlan, Andrew Telly and John P Smith. These days



take real organising and manning and we should thank Loris and her team for the time they put in.

Port Chatter

The delay in distribution of the last issue by e-mail has been overcome after liaison between Brian Richardson and the Chatter team. Substantial savings are made when you download it from the web.



Look out for another special edition in February to cover the Commissioner's Commendations Ceremony.

Fund Raising

To keep up the pressure to raise over \$200,000 per year you will recall that we have advertised for a Fund-Raising Officer. Look forward to some interest as this is mainly an administration and co-ordination role.

Donations, Government and Club Grants

Tony Dawson and I have prepared several grant applications ranging from \$20,000 down to \$5,000.

We expect that we will hear the results of two major grants in February. These are for capital and Training items, not general revenue.

It is a pleasure to advise that Jeff d'Albora of Soldiers Point Marina made a substantial grant to enable us to buy an EPIRB training locator for the training of our Rescue Vessel Crews in search and rescue. Delivery is expected soon.

Gift Shop

As we expected the Gift Shop is benefitting from signage drawing attention to the terrific range of goods.

Sandra and the team have been very busy not only making the sales but having to bring up the replenishment stock and price it. The sales over Christmas have been excellent and I expect a big cheque at our February meeting. The Gift Shop is now our major source of funds and with all the good ideas the team have, it may only just be the beginning.

OPERATIONS OFFICER

Our operational teams (Radio Base, Duty Callout Officers and Rescue Vessel Crews) have serviced the boating public well over the summer holidays. As usual the work they do is not generally seen by the community but they are there making it safer for all who go out on the water in (or sail by) Port Stephens.

Every hour of every day we monitor radio distress frequencies and phone lines, ready to respond to a call for help. The Radio Base is like a funnel which collects information and passes relevant distress information to the Water Police and our Rescue Vessel Crews.

The link between the radio base and the Police and Rescue Vessel Crews is the Duty Callout Officer – again volunteers on call 24 hours per day, ready to respond quickly to problems on the water. They are the people who call our Rescue Vessel Crews at any time of the day or night.

Our radio base handles all sorts of emergencies ranging from flare reports, calls from the public reporting somebody in difficulty in the water, skippers requesting help for an engine breakdown right through to imminent danger to human life on the water.

In December our radio base handled 37 such incidents very efficiently, which resulted in our rescue vessels being tasked by the Police 12 times to assist people on the water.

In January (up to January 28) we handled 28 incidents which saw our boats take to the water 14 times.

The Nelson Bay Water Police were busy with their boats on occasions, leaving the Marina with lights flashing and sirens sounding - assisting people in serious situations.

We responded to a number of May Day calls over the holidays. Twice we responded to a report of boats overturned and the occupants being thrown into the water – all were successfully recovered by the Police.

We were also tasked to a vessel which had run aground and was taking on water.

Our Rescue Vessel Crews made a lot of families happy when they were towed to a safe place in the Bay after reporting that they were in difficulties.

Some of the tasks included a family caught by a falling tide in the Myall River "short-cut", boats out of fuel late at night, families stranded by engine failure, jet skis with

(Continued on page 11)

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OPERATIONS AND RFS LIAISON

(Continued from page 9)

engine problems and so on.

Just before Christmas two young people were taken on-board PS31 when they experienced difficulties while paddling at the heads during a run-out tide.

Twice we have assisted large yachts who ran into problems in the Broughton Island vicinity.

We were requested to call an ambulance to meet a yacht with an injured person on-board.

All this activity is set in place after a call to our Radio Base by somebody requesting assistance. We never know what the next radio call might bring.

Our Rescue Vessel Crews go to bed never knowing if they will be called to the Rescue Boat at any time during the night.

Our various crews (Radio, Boat and Callout) have many responsibilities. However assisting people in distress on



the water is our reason for being here – fulfilling our **Primary Focus.**

Tony O'Donnell

RFS LIAISON

NOVEMBER STATISTICS

Bush fires 12, grass fires 5, smoke report 1, tree fire 6, motor vehicles accidents 6, car fires 10, ambo assists 2, community first responder 2, house fire 1, automatic fire alarms 3, pile burn 1, shed fire 1, tip fire 1, bonfire 1, yard fire 1, fire alarm 1. Total 54.

DECEMBER STATISTICS

Community first responder 5, tree fires 4, car fires 7, power point fire 1, grass fires 9, yard fire 5, bush fires 11, motor vehicle accidents 6, automatic fire alarms 4, oil leak 1, fire alarms 2, rubbish fires 2, ambo assists 3, house fires 3
Total 63.



Numbers are down on previous months as there have been several MAJOR fires where East Maitland have kept the radios overnight

GROUP 6

On the western outskirts of the area that Lower Hunter controls, is Group 6. This group consists of three brigades, Bucketty, Laguna and Wollombi, which are located along the northern section of the Great North

Road. This was built by convicts and proved very unpopular due to a lack of permanent water source.

Travellers preferred coastal steamers between Sydney and Newcastle in 1836 when the northern sections of the road were completed. The brigades handle fires in the towns and properties along the

Great North Road as well as fires in the vast tracts of national parks surrounding the towns. Needless to say, with a few exceptions, everything in the towns and along the road is historical. Wollombi Rural Fire Service (pictured) is located on the right hand side of Wollombi Road, the access road from Cessnock, near Wollombi Creek (pictured). This structure is modern and replaced a smaller fire brigade building behind the old police station in the town.

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WELFARE / LIAISON OFFICER

WELFARE / LIAISON OFFICER

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all and may we all have a nice and healthy (and also not too active or stressful) year. With all the activities and high workload at the base over Christmas, I do not have many members to write up about being on the "Sea Sick" list. Although a few people from the Broughton Island cruise were feeling a little on the 'green side' when they returned.

JOHN SMITH OAM is not holding up too well with his medical condition, but he is a fighter and is not going to give in too easily, he informed me on my recent visit.

Pam, I am sure, would like to hear from any of our members and I do encourage you to contact Pam even just to say hello and that you are thinking of them.

GEOFF MOORE AND RAY CALVERT Both past Divisional Commanders are now residents of Harbourside Shoal Bay. Geoff's wife Louise, informs me that they are both getting on well and take turns at who is running the show. I believe that the staff just love all of their Coastal Patrol and Marine Rescue stories.

Members please drop in and say hi to these two former Commanders and have a chat and coffee with them. I am sure that they would love to see you and catch up with all the waterfront news.

SHIRLEY CLARK likes eye surgery so much, that just before Christmas she went back into hospital for more eye procedures. All went well Shirley reports and she is back on duty at the Gift Shop. Well done Shirley, we would be lost without you and all of the lovely ladies on duty at the Gift Shop.

KEN ROSS-SAMPSON has not been his cheerful young self and has been having a few problems since being hit in the back of his leg with a golf ball. However, knowing Ken, it will take more than a bad leg to keep him away from his cottage duties.

BRIAN CARROLL reports that he is feeling a new man after undergoing recent medical treatment. Brian was seen to be at the base recently looking for the roster sheet and a vacant position that he could fill. Well done Brian and great to have you back on deck.

BRUCE SHADE I am sorry to report to members that after many years of service with the then R.V.C.P and Marine Rescue, Bruce has decided to call it a day and retire from our organisation. Bruce's health has been declining over these past few years and he feels that it is time to retire from his duties. Bruce will certainly be missed by many visitors who have come to know him and his dry wit when answering visitors questions.

All the best Bruce, please drop in to the base and say hi to all whenever you can along with you lovely wife, Patricia.

IAIN BLACKADDER reports that his shoulder injury is coming along, however not as fast as he would like. Iain

is very envious of all his shipmates out on patrol duties in this great summer weather we are having. Hang in there Iain, plenty of winter months and East Coast lows will still be there for you.

CROSSED THE BAR

Vale Commander **PETER SHEVLIN**, AM, RAN, (rtd) Foundation Member and past Commodore and Life Member of Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol Port Stephens Division.

I wish to advise all members of the very sad news of one of our Foundation members and past Commodores Peter Shevlin, who passed away on Monday 12 December 2016 after a short illness.

Peter, along with wife Margaret, lived at Nelson Bay for 35 years and had only recently moved to the South Coast to be closer to their family. See details of his life on the following page.

Peter is survived by his wife Margaret and their five children.

To Margaret and the family, from all of our members at Marine Rescue Port Stephens - along with other units - we pass on our sincere condolences.

MIKE GROVER - our sincere thoughts and prayers have also been passed onto Mike after the sad news of the passing of his Father recently. Mike to you and your family, please accept our sincere condolences. We are a big family here at Port Stephens unit and I am sure that I speak for all of the members.

Harold Gibson
The Padre

COUNSELLING SERVICE

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



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VALE PETER SHEVLIN AM RAN

COMMANDER PETER SHEVLIN, AM, RAN, (ret) FOUNDATION MEMBER AND PAST COMMODORE AND LIFE MEMBER OF ROYAL VOLUNTEER COASTAL PATROL PORT STEPHENS DIVISION AND MARINE RESCUE NSW PORT STEPHENS UNIT.

Peter passed away on Monday 12 December after a short illness at his South Coast retirement village where he and his wife Margaret had moved recently after spending 35 years at Nelson Bay.

I would like to share with you a little of Peter's life while here at Port Stephens - also his life as a Naval officer in both the RN, and RAN.

Peter Shevlin was a foundation member of the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol,

Port Stephens Division, he was also made a life member in recognition of his many years of involvement and leadership he put into the Port Stephens division and other divisions along the NSW coast.

Peter was a very professional instructor and many of us today owe our knowledge and possibly our safety and lives to this man's training ability. He prepared us for off shore heavy weather search and rescue and we were trained to pass our Australian Yachting Federation Rescue boat skippers qualification.

Peter was not only an instructor at unit or divisional level, he was also a Commodore of the R.V.C.P. and served in many advisory levels at Sydney HQ. He was also a Search Master, a Port Entrance Assistance Officer, an Education Officer and Navigation Officer.

Commander Peter Shevlin joined the Royal Navy in 1941 serving throughout the Atlantic, Mediterranean, Indian and Pacific Oceans. He witnessed the Japanese surrender in Singapore. He was a Gunnery Specialist, completing the Long G course in 1951. Shortly afterwards he served on exchange with the RAN, working at the gunnery school, HMAS CERBERUS, before joining HMAS TOBRUK as Gunnery Officer - where he saw action in the Korean War. He returned to England thereafter and served in the Mediterranean in HMS CAVENDISH and commanded HMS LOCH FYNE in the Persian Gulf in 1960-61.

He was commissioned Executive Officer on HMS FEARLESS in 1965, a posting which developed his



knowledge and understanding of the role of amphibious operations. Following a posting on the staff of Flag Officer, Scotland and Northern Ireland he then returned to Australia in 1969 and became the Director, Joint Warfare Policy in Navy Office, a position he was to occupy for 12 years. In this role he was a passionate and single-minded advocate for Joint Operations and was instrumental in writing much of Australia's Joint Warfare doctrine. He was a regular participant in the Chief of General Staff's annual warfare conferences and, almost single-handedly promoted the role of amphibious warfare in the Australian Defence Force.

Peter was responsible for the transfer of the Army's Landing Craft Heavy to the RAN and, as such, the LSH Project Director. He successfully oversaw the construction and introduction into service of HMAS TOBRUK, a ship that was to be a true workhorse for the navy for more than 30 years. He retired in

1983 as the Commanding Officer of the Naval Component and Chief Instructor at the Australian Joint Warfare Establishment at RAAF Williamtown. He was widely acknowledged as the "Father of the Amphibious Navy". He was made a member of the Order of Australia in 1976 for outstanding professionalism and service.

On retiring from the navy he worked with Carrington Slipways in Newcastle as the Project Manager for the Minehunter Inshore project and was then the Newcastle manager

of the Australian Warship Systems bid for the construction of the Anzac Class Frigates.

He subsequently became a Foundation and active member of the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol Port Stephens Division and was Commodore, NSW for many years. He was made an honorary Life Member of the RVCP and Marine Rescue.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years Margaret, and five children.

***May The Sea Be Calm and Winds Fair When You
Cross The Bar***

***Harold Gibson
Welfare/Protocol Officer***

RESCUE VESSELS AT WORK

SUNDAY DECEMBER 11

Marine Rescue Port Stephens was tasked by the Marine Area Command of the Water Police to assist a 15m (45ft), 20 tonne sloop which was 22 nautical miles north east of Port Stephens. The vessel was Tasmanian registered.

A spinnaker sheet and lines had wrapped around the propeller. Because of the mishap full sails could not be raised. Initial reports indicated the vessel was in trouble because of lack of manoeuvrability and the state of the seas.

An experienced crew was called and PS31 was soon heading at speed to the vessel. Our vessel was running into a strong NNE wind and seas about 3-4 metres. PS31 handled the conditions well and maintained a speed of 18 knots. With some good navigation and use of Radio Direction Finder and Radar the vessel was located. (PS31 continues to demonstrate her suitability for all types of rescues).

The Tasmanian sloop was sailing south at 5-6 knots and could maintain their course. The Skipper of PS31 decided to follow the sailing vessel until outside the heads at Port Stephens. Here they were asked to lower their sail and then PS31 took it under tow into the bay and placed it on a mooring at Shoal Bay.

Sounds simple but the waves and winds made it a difficult job – Congratulations to our crew.

Shortly after this job was finished Marine Rescue Port Stephens was supposed to tow a Fireworks barge into position for a display for the Community Christmas

Carols. We asked our friends at Marine Rescue Lemon Tree Passage to take over this task as we were not sure if we would be back in time. Thanks to their crew for responding so fast and making sure that the important community event was not compromised.



Once again Marine Rescue doing its work beyond the view of the general public. Our vision ***“Volunteers doing our jobs professionally”***

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10 2016

During a routine training session our vessel Port Stephens 31 was asked by our Radio Base to respond urgently to a vessel which had fuel leaking into the bilge and was moored off Nelson Bay Marina. The vessel had 2 adults and 4 children on board.

This call was treated as a May Day call by our Skipper who used all 840Hp in the engines of PS31 to get from Soldiers Pt. to Nelson Bay with the intention of taking the family off the distressed vessel. This was done in record time and soon all on board were safely on PS31 and standing off their boat. The RMS Boating Safety Officer stood by to ensure the area was kept clear in case the unthinkable happened. Nelson Bay Water Police called an officer to respond and take control of the incident. The Water Police brought a NSW Fire and Rescue Officer to the disabled boat and together they made the vessel safe. PS31 was tasked to raft the vessel and take it to a nearby boat ramp where it was loaded onto a boat trailer and safely removed from the

water.

This was a fine example of all the emergency services including Marine Rescue working together. The Skipper of the disabled vessel made a good call to remove his family from danger.



COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE

COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE MANAGER

Another busy holiday season behind us and a huge thank you to all Comms Centre volunteers for your commitment to ensure that we kept the base open 24 hours a day. In addition to normal rostered shifts we had a third person supporting the Watchkeeper and Radio Operator from 5-00am to 9-30am each day.

In December we received 32 incidents and close to the same amount in January. These ranged from reported injuries, people in the water, standard tows as a result of engine maintenance and/or fuel issues, to MAC involved overdue vessels and flare sightings. In December, our Rescue Vessel Crew were involved in 11 of these Incidents, with a similar number in January.

An extremely hectic time for our Duty Call Out Officers who are on call 24 hours a day and have to get involved in every one of the incidents, to co-ordinate actions with NBWP and when tasked by them to arrange our Rescue Vessel Crews. On at least one week in the holiday period, over 100 phone calls were made or received by our DCO. The co-operation between the Comms Centre and the DCO's is generally not seen but is critical in ensuring the safety of the boating public. Well done.

This is also a good time to recognise the relationship that Port Stephens has with Lemon Tree Passage and Newcastle Marine Rescue bases. We monitor the radios for both bases during the night shifts and where incidents occur in their geographic region either night or day they are quick to respond.

In addition to managing marine traffic during the holiday period, Marine Rescue Port Stephens continued to handle the Rural Fire Service calls for the Lower Hunter Region

from 5-00pm to 9-00am. Our operators have become an integral part of the Rural Fire Service communication response and are held in high regard by RFS. And of course RFS have had another busy holiday period responding to numerous fire incidents and motor vehicle accidents. Another great volunteer organisation supporting our community.

So now back to normal (whatever that might mean). A further opportunity for all members to learn from the holiday experiences and brush up on our procedures for



the coming year.

And don't forget about those wonderful sunrises!

Enjoy!

Colin Foote

A THANKYOU

Marine Rescue Port Stephens is a volunteer organisation which relies on the generous support of our local community and users of our waterways.

Recently, as the Saturday morning training crew were locking up, a member of the public approached asking if she could make a donation.

Lorraine explained that we had assisted her sons a couple of years ago and she had always intended to give a donation to us as thanks for our help.

Incidents like this directly cost Marine Rescue Port Stephens money for fuel and maintenance of vessels and equipment. Our volunteers undertake numerous fundraising activities to help with this cost. Special thanks to skippers of vessels who make donations to offset the cost of assisting them and remember, just like Lorraine, it is never too late to make your donation.



Would you like to donate?

<http://www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au/donate>



PORT STEPHENS MEDICAL CENTRE

2 Keel Street, Salamander Bay 2317

Ph: 4981 1733 Fax: 4981 1766

Email: portstephensmcepsmc.net.au

Our surgery features General Practitioners, a Registered Nurse, visiting Specialists and onsite pathology.

Dr Stan Kuchta MBBS (Sydney). Dr Kuchta practices full-time within our surgery and deals with all aspects of primary care in family medicine. His special interests include all types of Skin Cancers, Sports Medicine, Cardiology and Pain Management.

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

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

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

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

CORPORATE SERVICES GROUP

ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Membership

Our Membership team has been very active over the last couple of months interviewing potential new members and putting them through induction meetings. We have set a target of having a minimum of 20 trainees at any time so we need to attract and induct new members continually. Our mentoring of trainees over the first six months of their membership has commenced with Membership and Training combining to ensure all new members are guided through their introduction to the Unit and their first training courses. We hope this will reduce the drop-out rate as the new members progress through their initial service.

CCTV

Cameras have been installed in the Gift Shop, the caged storage area in the Command Centre basement, members car park and on the stairs leading up to the Comms Centre. These cameras feed through to a screen



in the Comms Centre so that members on duty can monitor these areas at all times - thereby increasing security of the Base.

Building Facilities

David Bacon has been very active in his role of Building/Facilities officer with a large number of minor maintenance issues being remedied. Arrangements have been made to install non-slip treads on all the stairways at the Base in the next couple of months. There will also be a new handrail installed on the landing at the top of the stairs leading to the Comms Centre in order to bring this handrail up to standard and to remedy some rusting of the support posts.

Fire Protection

Following the fire incident in the scrub on the northern side of the hill there have been a number of developments to safeguard the Base and persons working or visiting the area. An inspection of the Base by RFS and Port Stephens Council has resulted in the Council agreeing to create an Artificial Area Protection Zone (AAPZ) right around the Base area to a depth of 10 meters from the base Boundary. This clearing will take place in February and will be maintained by the Council on a regular basis. We are also getting quotes for a sprinkler system to cover this AAPZ in the event of a fire in the scrub surrounding the Base. The Working Group has further work to do in the areas of analysis of hose reels and evacuation procedures and will update members on these issues as they are developed.

John Reid

BOATS MANAGER

With Ken away I have been coerced into writing this report. So it will be short.

The decals (except for the 2 large round ones) have been removed from the Danial Thain and she is running well and waiting for the chance to impress her buyer. We have a new generator on the docks, which is having a few teething problems and these will be sorted soon. As for the boats, PS30 is due for a service and PS31 is going well. After only six months we are still learning new things about her.

Wednesday, by the way is maintenance day, and everyone is welcome. Please come down and offer a hand.

Rob Johnson (for Ken)



SOCIAL EVENTS - CHRISTMAS DINNER



CHRISTMAS DINNER

Broughton's on the Bay proved to be a great venue for our Christmas dinner, with perfect weather conditions allowing spectacular views over the marina from the deck. The catering by Will and Tanya's Bluewater Grill (from NB Golf Club) was excellent, and very good value for the \$30 ticket price. Many thanks go to our UC Lee Uebergang and DUC Neil Hansford, who generously agreed to subsidise the venue cost AND provide all members and guests with a \$7 bar voucher.



It was great to see so many of our members answering the call-to-action to come along in Christmas garb.... We finally managed to justifiably select someone other than Eryl Thomas for the "best dressed" award. This year it went to Lisa Loding and Keith Dykes - both of whom managed to cover themselves from head-to-toe in red and green, and take the prize. There were a number of other prizes awarded by a name-draw. Many thanks to Sandie Moxham for donating them from her collection of hard-won Bingo prizes.

Laurie Nolan and Frank Van Druten



CHRISTMAS DINNER.....



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LIGHTHOUSE WEDDING AND MARINE RESCUE SOCIAL EVENTS



FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2016

Christina Armstrong and Mathew Harris (left) from Point Clare on the Central Coast were married by Celebrant Suzi Crompton before heading to a reception at The Point Restaurant with their 40 guests. Matching a relaxed coastal theme, the male wedding party members wore shorts and braces and the bride wore a short lace gown.



SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER 2016

Erin Mulligan and Michael Tobin (above right) from Raymond Terrace were married by Deacon Lawrence Caelli before heading off to The Point Restaurant with their 70 guests. Drinks were served after the wedding ceremony on this hot and humid day.



MONDAY 5 DECEMBER 2016

Natasha Knopper and Tim White (left) from Cooranbong were married by Pastor Nimrod Maua in front of 70 guests on a hot day that none of us present will forget in a hurry. Aside from wonderful music by both a choir and trombone group, just as the "I do's" were about to be said, world Red Bull champion Matt Hall came seemingly out of nowhere across the skyline sideways and then gave a breathtaking 15 minute display. Simply amazing, with the lucky café diners applauding the free show they had just witnessed.



WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER 2016

Cathie de Koeyer and Jonah Bevan (right) were married by Celebrant Jules Amidy at midday on a day when record temperatures were expected. Very unusual was the "cheese cake" they displayed and cut on the verandah in front of their 32 guests. Guests enjoyed drinks and snacks before heading off to Mavericks.



NELSON HEAD LIGHTHOUSE TRUST AND GIFT SHOP

NELSON HEAD LIGHTHOUSE TRUST

The Trust wishes everyone and their families a happy, healthy and wonderful 2017.

On 13 December 2016, we were notified that the Trust had received a \$5000 Community Building Partnership Grant from the NSW Government



for the improvement of the Reserve disability ramp. The project must be completed by 31 March 2018 to receive the funding.

A few months ago the Trust submitted an application to Port Stephens Council to replace the damaged and dilapidated Nelson Head Inner lighthouse and Tea Rooms signs on the corner of Beach Road and Lighthouse Road Nelson. This work was completed in early January and Council kindly repaired the potholes in Lighthouse Road.

The Trust is liaising with Port Stephens Council Traffic Committee to have installed 'No Stopping' signs on the southern side of Lighthouse Road and 'No Boats and Caravans beyond this point' at the base of Lighthouse Road. Over the Christmas / New Year period vehicles have parked on both sides of the Road blocking access to and from the Reserve and Marine Rescue Port Stephens. At the same time vehicles pulling boats and caravans have driven to the top of the hill and found themselves in a very difficult situation!

As you may be aware, the Cafe is opening at 9.00am on Saturdays, Sundays and during the school holidays. We

have received enquiries from visitors wishing to access the Museum at the same time the Cafe is open. In order to meet this demand from visitors, Museum attendants rostered on these days may wish to open the Museum at 9.00am. This is optional and is not intended to be a new roster arrangement.

Sadly over the December / January period our Museum Attendants have caught visitors taking books without paying for them. Also some historical items on display have been removed by visitors. The Trust is asking



Museum attendants to be vigilant when visitors move throughout the rooms to prevent loss of items and ensure visitors pay for items.

Thirteen couples have booked the Lighthouse grounds for their wedding ceremonies during 2017. March, October and November are the most popular months. In 2017 the fee for wedding bookings will be \$550.00.

The Trust is aiming to paint the inside of the public toilets this year. If you have a connection with a painter or paint supplier who might like to donate paint - or their time - to paint the toilets, it would be greatly appreciated.

Kevin Griffey



The Gift Shop has been very busy. Without the support of the ladies with extra shifts, and the total support given by Marine Rescue, our little shop could not achieve the record months we are having. Denise Olsen and I will be attending the Gift Trade Fair in February at the new Exhibition Centre at Darling Harbour, We are

hoping to find new and interesting items for the shop.

I hope 2017 is a healthy and happy one for all.

Sandra Scheuber



SOCIAL EVENTS

BROUGHTON ISLAND ECO WALK

This outing proved to be as exciting and enjoyable as we had hoped. Despite a little rain in the morning, the weather fined up to be very comfortably overcast on both excursion days. Fortunately the seas were very kind to us for all four trips, with no-one helping the local fishing industry with added berley.

We had 43 members and friends attend, out of the possible 48 seats on the four trips... a great roll-up, and evidence of the popularity of such an adventure. We'll definitely be planning a similar excursion towards the end of this year.

Many thanks to the crew of **Imagine Cruises Envision**, especially our very own Steven Murray (as well as the skipper and one other guide) who added to our enjoyment of the Island with his local knowledge. I particularly liked the bit where he led us fearlessly through the long grass, forging a new track across the Island from Coalshaft Bay

(there really is NO coal shaft – just mutton bird nests!) to Providence Beach. Thanks also to our very own twitcher Neil Fraser who provided information on the Bird Life of Broughton Island – I hope you all managed to identify some of the wildlife. For me.... I was enthralled by the little Welcome Swallows darting above the clifftops at Coalshaft Bay. NOT so impressive, however, were the march flies that we encountered as soon as we reached Providence Beach – they were almost as big as the swallows, but a LOT more aggressive. (Memory note..... take a flame-thrower next time!!!).

Laurie Nolan



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BIRDS AROUND THE BASE

Birds at the base – Silver Gull (*Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*)

The Silver Gull or sea gull is one of the most common birds around our beaches and foreshore areas. However the name 'sea gull' is a misnomer and while the bird is



ubiquitous around our coastline it is also widespread across inland areas of our continent.

Adult Silver Gulls range from 40-45 cm in length and have a wingspan of around 94 cm. The head, body and tail are white. The wings are light grey with black tips and white terminations. Adults have bright red bill, legs and eye ring. The brighter the red colour, the older the bird. Chicks are born light grey. Juvenile gulls have brown patterns on their wings and a dark bill, and achieve full adult plumage at around 12 months.

Around Port Stephens, Silver Gulls can often be seen loafing in flocks on beaches and sand bars at high tide together with Crested Terns. The latter birds can be distinguished from gulls by their yellow bills, black legs and a black cap on their heads.

Silver Gulls have adapted well to the urban environment and thrive around shopping centres, garbage dumps and sewerage treatment facilities. Numbers have exploded in some regions since the 1950s as we have become increasingly prosperous and more wasteful. Offshore islands which once supported small breeding colonies of gulls are now over-run and it has become increasingly difficult for terns and other seabirds to breed there. Gulls now nest on many man-made structures around the coastline including jetties, disused barges, old ship hulks, pylons, disused wharves and moored yachts. When flood waters reach Lake Eyre every ten years or so, tens of thousands of Silver Gulls, along with many other species of water birds, arrive at the lake to feed and breed.

Gulls are highly adaptable feeders that take a wide range of prey opportunistically. This includes fish, marine and freshwater invertebrates, terrestrial arthropods, insects and earthworms, rodents, eggs, carrion, offal, small

reptiles, amphibians, plant items such as seeds and fruit, human refuse, chips, and chicks of other birds. The type of food depends on circumstances. Terrestrial prey is more common during the breeding season and marine prey is more common in the non-breeding season. Gulls form floating rafts at sea to herd fish together and dive to take near surface prey.

The Silver Gull has become a successful and at times aggressive scavenger in urban areas, readily pestering humans for handouts, pilfering from unattended food containers or searching for human refuse at tips. Hence the expression "like a sea gull after a hot chip" used to describe over eager people.

Silver Gulls frequently exhibit 'dipping' behaviour when sitting on the water and can drink salt water as well as fresh water. They possess exocrine glands located in supraorbital grooves of the skull from which salt can be excreted through the nostrils to assist the kidneys in maintaining electrolyte balance.

Breeding occurs from August to December. On off-shore islands they form dense colonies with nests constructed in a shallow scrape on the ground lined with seaweed,

grass and feathers. Typical clutch size is 1-3 eggs. Often two broods will be raised in a year.



Both adults share nest-building, incubation and feeding duties. Silver Gull chicks are dependent on their parents for the first three months although parents may continue to care for fledglings until they are six months old. To make

their parents feed them, chicks tap on the parent's bill, inducing them to regurgitate a meal.

Silver Gulls are comparatively slow to mature and are ready to breed at around four years. They have long lifespans, some reaching well over thirty years. Locally, Silver Gull nesting colonies have been recorded on the northwest tip of Broughton Island and on the southern end of the island around Snapper Rock.

The Silver Gull is considered by the Noongar people of southern Western Australia to be a spiritual intermediary between the people and their spirits.

**Neil Fraser
Twitchee**

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SOCIAL COMMITTEE

MRPS Social Calendar - 2017 schedule

Month	Date	Event	Comments
MAY	Tuesday 2nd May	BINGO Night	- At Senior Citizens Hall, Norburn Ave Nelson Bay - First game FREE each round. Additional games \$1/ card - Make a table, bring some friends
JULY	Wednesday 19th July	DINNER Night	- At a venue TBA - Theme TBA
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 13th September	TRIVIA Night	- At Senior Citizens Hall, Norburn Ave Nelson Bay - No upfront cost, but side-games require "gold coins" - Make a table, bring some friends
NOVEMBER or DECEMBER	Dates TBA	ADVENTURE Outing	- Details TBA... but planned to be a fitting sequel to our Broughton Island Eco Walk of last year - Anyone with a "special request" or "good idea" is encouraged to discuss with Laurie Nolan.
DECEMBER	Tuesday 12th December	XMAS Dinner	- At a venue TBA



Year 2017 Public School Holidays		
Summer Holidays		29-Jan-17
Autumn Holidays	8-Apr-17	25-Apr-17
Winter Holidays	1-Jul-17	17-Jul-17
Spring Holidays	23-Sep-17	8-Oct-17
Summer Holidays	16-Dec-17	29-Jan-18



Happy Birthday

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

FEBRUARY

Mary GUTRY
Peter FITZSIMONS
Mike PIERPOINT
Brian RICHARDSON
Brian HARROLD
Robert HARRIS
Pete LINDWALL
Neil FRASER
Bob CROSS
Angela TILLING
Bob COGHLAN
Trevor MOXHAM
Julie CHAUNCY

Ross CAMBOURN
Peter MERLINO
Julie PICTON
Gary DUCKETT
Casandra BUTTERWORTH
Brett MCCARNEY

MARCH

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

Marian CHAPPEL
Denise OLSEN
Ross DEBENHAM
Denise TAYLOR
Laurie NOLAN
Steve CHAUNCY
Stephen HARRIS
John VASSALLO
Kerry REHN
Mark LACEY
Gai HART
Lisa LODDING
Jay LYNCH

PORT STEPHENS WEATHER

Nelson Bay, NSW - January 2017				
Date	Day	Temps		Rain
		Min	Max	
		°C	°C	mm
1	Su	23.6	27.2	0
2	Mo	20.6	24.5	37.4
3	Tu	20	25.7	0.1
4	We	18.5	26	0.8
5	Th	20	28	4
6	Fr	20.5	28.6	0
7	Sa	20.1	26.1	0
8	Su	19.4	26.5	0
9	Mo	20.1	28	0
10	Tu	20.1	27.6	0
11	We	22.1	34	0
12	Th	22.8	27.8	0
13	Fr	22.8	32.3	0
14	Sa	23.8	34	0
15	Su	21.5	26	0.4
16	Mo	21	26.3	0
17	Tu	21	33.2	0
18	We	23.8	38.5	0
19	Th	21.5	24	0
20	Fr	21	26.4	0
Statistics for the first 20 days of January 2017				
Mean		21.21	28.54	2.135
Lowest		18.5	24	0
Highest		23.8	38.5	37.4
Total				42.7

Anniversaries of Service

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

FEBRUARY							
		Barry HAYES	21	Marian CHAPPEL	9	Graeme ABBERTON	3
Rod REESON	30	Ross DEBENHAM	15	Bill HASKELL	9	Peter HOLMAN	3
Peter PHILLIPSON	27	Penny DAWSON	15	Robert JOHNSON	9	Karyn MILLER	2
Shirley CLARK	26	Brian CARROLL	14	Ian DRUMMOND	6	Rob MASON	1
John SMITH	24	Eileen KELLY	12	Lee UEBERGANG	5	Jeremy WEIR	1
Bruce SHADE	23	Russell CRAIG	10	Mick MILTON	3	Kerry REHN	1
MARCH							
		Betty TRICKETT	7	Ginny HOPKINS			1
Maureen WHEATLEY	16	Suzanne REESON	7	Heather PERRY-COMLEY			1
Brian WHEATLEY	16	Penelope HIGHLAND	7	Nick FISHER			1
Keith DYKES	11	Angus MACKENZIE	3	John BATES			1
Mark LACEY	10	David BACON	3				
Michael DUGGAN	9	Lisa LODDING	2				
Laurie NOLAN	7	Peter DENTRINOS	2				

IN APPRECIATION....

Contributors to this issue of *Port Chatter*:

Matt Darby, Ross Debenham, Colin Foote, Neil Fraser, Harold Gibson, Kevin Griffey, Neil Hansford, Rob Johnson, Laurie Nolan, Tony O'Donnell, John Reid, Sandra Scheuber, Lee Uebergang and Maureen Wheatley. Other photos by Di Baillie, Geoff Clark, Matt Darby, Ross Debenham, Neil Fraser, Neil Hansford, Tony O'Donnell and Penelope Highland. You too can become a contributor and you will be most welcome. See inside front cover.

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

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		Chemmart Pharmacy, Nelson Bay
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		Soldiers Point Marina
	Boating Sales and Repairs	Nelson Bay Outboard Services
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Windscreen Repairs		Novus Autoglass Shop
Real Estate		Robinsons Property
		Century 21 Paradise Waters, Nelson Bay
Restaurants and Cafes		Rock Lobster Seafood – D'Albora Marinas
		Inner Light Tea Rooms, Nelson Head



NEXT MESS MEETINGS

**TUESDAY
21st February 2017
and
14th March 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.



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R Marine Port Stephens	02 4984 2355	Sandbar Seafood	02 4984 3777
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