

PORT CHATTER

August 2016

MARINE RESCUE NSW
PORT STEPHENS UNIT

OCTOBER 2016

“Volunteers doing our jobs professionally”





MARINE RESCUE NSW – PORT STEPHENS UNIT

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

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Phone: (02) 4981 3585

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VOLUNTEERS SAVING LIVES ON THE WATER

UNIT APPOINTMENTS

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

Unit Commander Lee Uebergang
Deputy Unit Commander Neil Hansford

Operations

Operations Officer

Duty Callout Officers
Penelope Highland (Lead)
Barney Pinney
Neil Fraser
Angus MacKenzie
Jenny Frost
Communications Centre Manager Colin Foote
Ashes Scattering Coordinator Harold Gibson
Boats Manager Ken Johnson
Chief Engineer Bill Haskell
R.F.S. Liaison Ross Debenham
Master Coxswain Dave Jack
Coxswains Mike Smith Sue Freeman
Ken Johnson Noel Corcoran
Robert Johnson Barney Pinney
Nigel Waters

Finance

Treasurer

Assisting Peter Merlino
Colin Couper

Community Relations

Community Relations Officer

Public Relations/Social Media Matt Darby
Editor Port Chatter Penelope Highland
Asst Editor Port Chatter Frank van Druten
Marine Radio Service Database Graeme Abberton
Social Committee Laurie & Deb Nolan
Frank & Deb van Druten
Gift Shop Manager Sandra Scheuber
Grants Officer Tony Dawson

Education and Training

Unit Training Officer

Training Systems Officer Graeme Abberton
Boats Training Officer Richard Pizzuto
Course Presenters: Peter Dentrinos
Neil Fraser Mick Milton
Richard Pizzuto Graham Pretty
David Rogers

Welfare / Liaison

- Assistant Vacant
Jenny Fitzsimons

Corporate Services

Administration Officer John Reid

Communications Centre Services Jenny Fitzsimons
W.H. & S Officer Kevin Griffey
Base Security Graham Pretty
Membership Stephen Harris

Rosters Loris Webster
Maintenance and Supply Peter Baldwin
David Bacon

Data Base/Stats Paul Sullivan
Awards and Recognition John P Smith
Technical Services John Vassallo
Erica Smith
Maureen Wheatley
Iain Blackadder
Lee Ryman
Brian Richardson
Peter Baldwin
Robert Johnson
Dieter Greiter
Paul Farnill
Harold Gibson

Historian

Protocol Officer

Trust Management Sub-Committee

Chairman Kevin Griffey
Treasurer Peter Merlino
Secretary Garry Jensen
Committee Peter Fitzsimons
Port Stephens Historical Society Dennis Corr
Welfare / Liaison Harold Gibson
Wedding Events Co-ordinator Lynne Jensen
Jenny Fitzsimons
Tours 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.

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

Cover Photographs - Geoff Clark and Roy Jeffrey

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.

Radio Base & 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 base 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
- Assistance and advice regarding entry to, and navigation in, the Port
- A checkpoint and radio coverage for recreational vessels transiting up and down the coastline, in our area
- 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 base by phone or radio and are also offered in regular radio skeds).

Accredited Rescue Craft Available on a 24 hr call-out basis, subject to Police tasking. (See 'Lifeboats' 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 & 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 Radio Room, 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.



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.

FROM THE BRIDGE

UNIT COMMANDER OUTGOING

I am pleased and grateful to have this opportunity to say a few words to all members following my stepping down as Unit Commander.

As I said in my earlier email, this was not an easy decision for me to make, but it was one that, regrettably, I had to make.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all members for the support and goodwill I received in both positions of Deputy Unit Commander and Unit Commander and for the good wishes and understanding that have been expressed to me following my stepping down.

My decision to step down was made a lot easier when Lee Uebergang confirmed to me his willingness to step up as Unit Commander. I have worked closely with Lee in a number of areas over the past five years and especially over recent months in his capacity of Deputy Unit Commander. Our Unit could not be in better hands.

Together with the refreshed Executive Committee and under the organisational structure now in place, our Unit has very strong and committed leadership to take us forward under our motto

"Volunteers doing our jobs professionally".

I am, of course, remaining a member of MRPS and I look forward to continuing the camaraderie and friendships that come with that.

Thank you again everyone and keep smiling.

Colin Cahill



Colin Cahill and Lee Uebergang

UNIT COMMANDER INCOMING

Some say "a week is a long time in politics" well it was only a few weeks from when Col decided to step down until he handed over to me at the September members meeting but that has seemed like a very very long time and a long time ago!! I'm looking forward to the challenges and rewards of being UC and the big bucks \$\$\$ that all come with the job. I'm also hoping I can rely on the same levels of support and assistance that my predecessors have received from you the members.

I'd like to thank Col for his dedication to the Unit and in particular recognise his achievements as a DCO, SARCC Operations trainer, Communications Centre Manager, DUC then UC. Well done and thank you.

I am pleased to announce that Stephen Bromhead LLM MP, State Member for Myall Lakes and Meryl Swanson MP, Federal Member for Patterson have accepted

invitations to be Patrons of MRPS. I look forward to hosting them on a visit to the Unit in due course.

The last two months has seen Col, Neil and I become further involved in liaison and cooperation with other Emergency Services organisations. In August we hosted an inspection of the Base and vessels by Police Superintendent Chris Craner (Commander of the Port Stephens LAC) and Chief Inspector Brian Tracey. This gave rise to Col and Neil attending an Emergency Services liaison breakfast and Chief Inspector Brian Tracey attending the September members meeting as our guest speaker. I also attended the biannual Port Stephens Council Local Emergency Management Committee meeting for all Emergency Service combat and support agencies. Those who attended the members meeting will remember Brian announcing the Police's intention to utilise our Command Centre as an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) should one be required in Nelson Bay. This announcement caused a stir of excitement in the audience and a realisation for me that the Unit has a fair bit to do to prepare for the activation of the EOC. I intend to set up a small project to manage development of internal procedures and processes for

activating the EOC. Anyone interested in getting involved is encouraged to contact me.

The Police announcement about the EOC is a timely reminder that MRPS is an Emergency Services organisation. Our primary focus is **"Saving lives on open and closed waters in and around Port Stephens"**. Everything we do as a Unit should be contributing to that end. I'm sure there will be more written and said about

MRPS being an Emergency Services organisation in the coming months.

By the time you read this you would have seen the announcement that Neil Hansford has been confirmed as the new DUC. Congratulations Neil; I look forward to working with you in both your roles of DUC and Community Relations Officer.

That's it from me for this edition. I look forward to working with the Unit's members, our key stakeholders, the Executive Committee and broader management team to further enhance the operational capabilities and reputation of MRPS.

Lee Uebergang
Unit Commander

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FROM THE BRIDGE..... AND OPERATIONS OFFICER

DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER

By the time you read this you would have seen the announcement that Neil Hansford has been confirmed as the new DUC. Congratulations Neil; I'm sure you will do an outstanding job as the DUC.

Strategic Plan 2017-18. As I previously advised, the "Plan in a Page" was sent to all Members for comment. A number of comments were received, considered by the Strategic Planning working group and embedded into the plan where appropriate. The working group has also been considering the focus area of "Culture" and has proposed that the statement for Culture should read "We are an Emergency Services organisation". This has been agreed by the Executive Committee so will be included in the plan. The plan will now be passed down to the respective members of the Executive Committee and management team to complete the "Strategies" and "Action Plans" sections which will finalise the plan. The final plan will be presented at the November members meeting in the presence of Dean Storey, Deputy Commissioner who is our guest for that meeting.

Regional Operations Managers. You may be aware that the six positions of Regional Controllers have been re-advertised as Regional Operations Managers. The job description details a focus for the new roles of: 1) support to Units in the region, 2) training, 3) community education programs, 4) MRNSW policy and procedures, and 5) liaison across all Emergency Services. Changing these positions to full-time employees is a positive development for MRNSW and each unit. I have been advised that Neil Grieves (our current Regional Controller) did not apply for the role. He will finish his service in November. Neil has been a great supporter of this Unit and will be missed in that role. Our thanks go to Neil Grieves for everything he has done for us.

That's my last report as the DUC ... over to Neil Hansford.

Lee Uebergang



OPERATIONS OFFICER

The Operations at Marine Rescue Port Stephens encompasses the Radio Base and Rescue Boats. Our job is to save lives in the waters adjacent to Port Stephens. One of our functions would be to support the Water Police in searching open waters for a missing person or vessel.

The ocean is a big place and for a search to have any chance of success requires a lot of planning along with the use of a great deal of science and local knowledge.

During September, three Watch Officers and five Boat Crew attended a **Search**

and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) off the coast of Newcastle. The weekend was organised by Marine Rescue NSW, Hunter and Central Coast Regions and was conducted by the Marine Area Command of the NSW Water Police.

Day 1 was all about the theory of a search at sea. The exercises taught those involved how to calculate the most probable area to search for a successful outcome. Lots of maths and chart work – but great learning for all involved.

Day 2 – Westpac Helicopter dropped 4 Floating Man-overboard dummies into the water off the coast of Newcastle. Our boat PS31 along with the Nelson Bay Water Police vessel (WP24) and 5 other Marine Rescue

vessels organised a patterned search to find the *dummies*. Surf Lifesaving supported the search by covering areas close inshore in the search area.

It all worked and within 1.5 hours all the targets were located and taken aboard a rescue vessel. We are now much better prepared if we are called upon to conduct a search at sea.

PS31 Meets new AMSA Regulations

During the period since the last edition of Port Chatter PS31 (John Thompson) was taken to Forster where Steber International put an additional 100Kgs of weight in the keel. This is to meet AMSA's regulations on buoyancy – a new regulation since the



Paul Farquharson (MAC)
Delivering a lecture



Boats going out to search

launch of PS31.

Boat Forum

We have formed a Boat Forum to oversee the Boat Operations and to support the Vision of the Unit. Crew

(Continued on page 9)



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OPERATIONS OFFICER.....

(Continued from page 7)

Safety is a prime focus while the Forum also reviews operations and manages Capital Projects.

Currently the Forum is looking at upgrading the dock facilities to facilitate efficient operations of our Rescue Vessels and to enhance the speedy dispatch of the boats when we are tasked to assist the boating community. This project is not cheap and along with planning the facility we are looking for ways to fund the project.

Other projects include safety equipment for our crew members, search and rescue equipment along with training aids to help us become more and more efficient.

Duty Callout Officers (DCO)

When Marine Rescue Port Stephens receives a call for help there is a great deal of organisation necessary behind the scenes – and it has to be done quickly and efficiently. On call 24/7 are a small band of DCO's who get the operation underway including liaising with the Water Police. This month we welcome Penelope Highland as lead DCO and Jenny frost who has joined the team. Thanks go to Colin Foote for his marvellous work as team leader in the past.



Statistics

In the month of August our Operations were involved with ten Rescues or Assists and up to the September 19 a total of eight.

Summer is coming and our busy season is almost upon us. Hopefully boat owners - before launching their boat for the season - will attend to a few important items:

Battery – is it fully charged and is it capable of starting the motor once the fishing or activities are over?

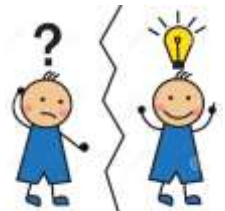
Engine – has it been serviced and is it in good running condition?

Safety Equipment – do you have all the required safety equipment? This includes a radio and knowledge of how to use it.

Log On with Marine Rescue each and every time you go out on the water (off shore or inshore). Use your radio or download the free App from Marine Rescue NSW.

That's it for now

Tony O'Donnell



EMERGENCY SERVICES LIAISON BREAKFAST





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WELFARE / LIAISON OFFICER

WELFARE / LIAISON OFFICER

CROSSED THE BAR

Valda Munro a former member of RVCP/Marine Rescue Port Stephens unit and a hard worker in the gift shop has sadly passed away. Valda had been a client in a local Nursing home for the past year after having a bad fall at her home. Valda's funeral was held in Sydney with many friends and family members attending.

Valda's last instructions and her wishes were for her ashes to be scattered by Marine Rescue in the waters of Port Stephens.

Garry Duckett and his family are also going through very hard times with the sad news of Garry's younger brother passing away suddenly in Western Australia.

Our sincere condolences to our member Garry, also to his family members at this very hard and sad time.

Don Hodge another of our past RVCP/Marine Rescue members passed away recently. Don, with his late wife Beryl, were a valued team with their radio duties.

Don, being a former NSW Police Inspector, shared a lot of his radio and rescue procedures with us. Both Don and Beryl were very respected members in the then Coastal Patrol, and mixed in with any fund raising ventures that the unit was involved in. To Don's family, our sincere condolences to you all. Don will always be remembered in Port Stephens.

Unit Condolences have also been given to our very popular member **Jenny Fitzsimons**, with the passing of her very close Auntie, who lived on the far North coast.

Jenny had been very close to her Aunt and as we all know, was a tireless worker and supporter for her for many years.

Jenny, to you and your family members, we are sorry to hear of the passing of your Aunt - and all send our support to you and Peter.

Sea Sick List

Ray Calvert has been having a very hard time with his health over these past six months. Ray was only home from hospital for a few days when the "Brand New" support walker he used for the first time, lost a wheel. Needless to say our dear friend Ray had another fall. Ray is presently a guest at Harbourside Haven Shoal Bay. He would dearly like to have a chat with any member if they would like to call in and see him.

Sue Reeson has not been herself these past few months. However Sue informed me that she is on the mend and that husband Rod's cooking and house duties are making life a lot easier for her. With Rod's retirement from Skipper duties, I am sure a lot more attention will be given to Sue. All the best Sue and we are all thinking of you and sincerely hope that your health improves.

Pam Smith is progressing very slowly after her major operation. However, nothing comes in the way of Pam when she feels that duty calls at the base gift shop. Drop in and say hello to Pam, she would love to hear from you.

Also don't forget our other Smithy, Pam's husband and our long time serving member, John Smith O.A.M. who is a client at Fingal Haven, Fingal Bay.

Brian Richardson has also been reported as having health problems while on holidays in Northern NSW. I believe that Brian was hospitalised for a few days to have examinations performed to find out exactly what his problem may be. All the best Brian and we all send our regards and hope that you are back to good health and caravanning around our fine country soon.

Erica Smith has also been far from her most friendly happy self in recent times. Erica has picked up that dreaded Flu and it has really taken its hold on her health. However knowing Erica, like most of us do, uniforms and supplies must still go on. JP has had to change gears and pick up a few knots to assist Erica with her fine work that she does as our Uniform Supply Officer. All the best Erica. We all send our sincere get well wishes to you.

Standing Down From Welfare Officer

This will be my last report to you all regarding Welfare Duties. I have decided to stand down from this position and allow another member to come on board, who may have new ideas to contribute to this most important unit area.

Thank you all for your continued support, feedback and good advice that has helped me with this position to be able to assist our members in time of need. I would just like to say thank you to all. However, the "Padre" as at times I am known, will still be around to assist any members in any way that I can.

Jenny Fitzsimons who has been my assistant for the past 18 months will be acting in this role until a permanent replacement can be found. Jenny, as you all know, is a "Power House" when it comes to work and she is also a wonderful caring person and will continue on as welfare assistant.

Regards To You All

Harold Gibson

COUNSELLING SERVICE

Marine Rescue has access to the RFS Counselling Service for Critical Incidents. If after a critical incident (boat, radio, elsewhere) you feel you need help contact the UC, DUC or Welfare Officer. 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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COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND SUMMER BOAT RAMP CAMPAIGN

COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER

As we approach our peak season of activity we need to focus on how much it costs to keep our 24/7 operation in place.

We know the costs will always be there but the burning question is what financial support we will receive from our community and local business.

Other than minor advertising revenue in Port Chatter and occasional Bunnings barbeques we receive NO local business support for our services yet so much of the local business activity depends on Port Stephens being seen as a safe place to enjoy activities on the water. Money in our collection boxes comes from the public. The profits from the Gift Shop are also important but our ladies do this themselves.

Our only support comes in grants from Wests Diggers, Soldiers Point Bowling Club and Rotary and donations from a Fishing Club. We had one new donor this year who in fact is a local business operator.

Our long term donors continue to assist us.

To this end the Executive is considering the engagement of a professional fund raising company to put a structured programme in place with business. We can't survive on Bunnings barbeques and collection boxes!

We don't only have to meet our day to day costs of the boats we have to maintain the base. On top of these costs we have to put away over \$50,000 each year into a fund to replace PS30 in 5 years and PS31 in 10 years.

It is a challenge!

The recent Trivia Night was again a success with well over 50 members and guests testing their knowledge.

Frank and Deb did their usual very competent organising job.

We are preparing a number of Grant applications to try and get assistance to acquire necessary training and safety equipment for the boats and updated equipment for the Radio base.

We will be doing our Ramp Visits through December/January to encourage Log-Ons and donations. We will work in conjunction with Maritime. We will advise the programme and call for volunteers for these 2-3-hour weekend and holiday morning shifts.

At the time of writing we are still waiting for details from Head Office on the details but what we do know is the format will be similar to last year.

One of the highlights in recent months has been the substantial increase in sales and profits from the Gift Shop. Sandra and the dedicated team are showing growth month on month which is flowing through to what the Shop is able to put towards our operating costs. Not only are sales rising but the profit margins are also improved.

If you haven't been into the shop in recent weeks you will really notice that the stock is attractive and will appeal to the maximum number of customers. The stock system is working and the new EFPOS machine is making it easier to transact on credit cards.

We should all be very proud of our Gift Shop and we all owe a deed of thanks to "the ladies" who have set themselves so many targets. Christmas trading should break all records Sandra and Denise tell me.

Neil Hansford

SUMMER BOAT RAMP CAMPAIGN

At the suggestion of many members we are going to conduct our Ramp Campaign during December and January.

In past years when we did this we had a lift not only in MRS memberships but generally in the number of vessels logging in for the first time. Many of these were visitors to the Bay from areas where Marine Rescue has not had a high profile.

We will endeavour to operate a rotational programme at Little Beach, Soldiers Point and Shoal Bay. There is a suggestion we may do a small number of visits to Tea Gardens and Hawks Nest in conjunction with one of our boats with the aim of increasing our presence on Port Stephens north shore. Feedback on this is sought.



Generally we will attend the ramp from 0600 to 0900 and take promotional signage encouraging vessels to log on by radio or use the mobile app.

We will look to do this on Saturdays, Sundays AND Public Holidays over our peak Christmas period.

In the past we have enjoyed some good donation days as a bonus.

It generally works with 2-3 people and we will try and co-ordinate with Maritime to be at the same ramps as their Boating Educational Officers.

The program will go up in November and members will

be invited to volunteer to engage in this vital public contact.

Neil Hansford

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COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE MANAGER

Radio Room Update

Great to see new faces in the Radio Room in Rostered Seconds, MRO and Watch Keeper roles. The learning curve never diminishes in whichever role you are filling on the day, so take advantage of this quieter time to prepare yourself for Summer by gaining experience from those around you and by adhering to our Standard Operating Procedures, so that when marine traffic increases you are prepared for any possible Incident. Remember, your action could make the difference in saving a life.

Since the last issue of Port Chatter we have issued a number of 'Notice to Watch Keepers' clarifying some of our Operating Procedures. It is important that all Radio Room members become familiar with these notices before the start of each shift.

Over the next few months we will be conducting orientation trips in the Bay on PS31 for Radio Room members so that they can familiarise themselves with local landmarks. Please use the form in the Radio Room to express your interest. These will most likely be held on a Wednesday morning.

On the weekend of September 17/18, three members from the Radio Room joined our Boat Crew on PS31 for a Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) off Newcastle. The Exercise involved the Port Stephens Water Police boat, six Marine Rescue vessels and Inflatables and Jet Skis from Surf Life Saving. Essential training for our Boat Crew but also gave our Radio Room personnel a greater appreciation of the skill and co-ordination required for a successful search.

We now have 24/7 support available for our Radio Room with an '*On Call Watchkeeper*' who can provide assistance for all Radio Room functions and any overload that may require additional support. Mike Grover and Colin Foote will alternate fortnightly in this role.

There is no change to our Standard Operating Procedures for major Incidents which will still be escalated to the OPSO and/or UC.

Colin Foote

RFS LIAISON

FIRE INCIDENTS JULY, 2016: Bush fires 8, house fires 2, grass fires 15, motor vehicle accidents 12, pile burn 1, car fires 9, ambo assists 1, tree fire 1, structure fires 2, automatic fire alarms 4, rubbish fires 1, explosion report 1, camper van fire 1, bonfire 2, false alarm 1, oil spill 1, truck fire 1 TOTAL 63.

FIRE INCIDENTS AUGUST, 2016: Car fires 13, house fires 1, bush fires 12, power pole fire 1, motor vehicle accident 14, automatic fire alarms 4, pile burn 1, grass fires 10, oil spill 1, spurious call 1, fire works 1, smoke reports 2, pile burns 1, truck fire 1, bonfire 1, portaloo fire 1, unknown fire 1, rubbish fire 1, TOTAL 67.

WILLIAMTOWN/ SALT ASH RURAL FIRE BRIGADE OPEN DAY

I visited this brigade on Saturday September 11. Their station is located at 1 Michael Drive, Salt Ash with a cross of Lemon Tree Passage Road. Their original station was located at the junction of Lemon Tree Passage Road and Nelson Bay Road. They have Cat 1 and Cat 9 vehicles.

Their area of responsibility is roughly Fullerton Cove to the wineries along Nelson Bay Road and down Lemon Tree Passage Road as far as Oyster Cove Road, and includes being a part of the disaster response team at the airport. They also have responsibility along

Richardson Road to the Medowie Road roundabout. The captain is Dave Thomas and last year they responded to 146 incidents, no doubt due to their proximity to Nelson Bay Road.

COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDER, CLARENCE TOWN.

With the commencement of CFR Clarence Town, it cannot be stressed too much that these calls are all life threatening, and the first responders must be paged prior to contacting the RFS Duty Officer. If the CFS call is in relation to a motor vehicle accident for instance, page the CFR then page the relevant brigade whose area the incident falls in.



Photos: Salt Ash Cat 9 and



Don't forget to add the FRNSW incident number to the initial page to brigades.

Ross Debenham

BOATS MANAGER

BOATS MANAGER

Well another two months have passed and both our operational craft, Codi K II and John Thompson, are both on the water and fully serviceable thanks to the efforts of Rob Johnson, Bill Haskell and the band of maintenance volunteers. The Danial Thain, while no longer operational, is being maintained to enhance its resale potential and for use as a platform for the scattering of ashes. Unfortunately the DT is not serviceable at the time of writing but more on that later.



Codi K II is performing well since the installation of the new Suzuki motors and all personnel have been inducted on their use. There are some minor unserviceabilities being carried such as the starboard window leaking and the port window not locking automatically but otherwise the vessel is fine.

Of more concern is that we are still waiting for the Sea Dock that PS30 is moored in, to be brought up to standard. The company who provide the Sea Dock has not carried out the work required to bring it to the expected standard and we are still implementing work arounds in order to use the dock.

John Thompson has had some minor maintenance problems but in the main these have been resolved swiftly. Minnards, the Yanmar contractors, have been called in twice over and above their scheduled servicing times. Once was to move the engine freshwater flushing taps and once when the engine coolant reservoirs sucked in bilge water because the overflow tubes were too long and lay on the bilge floor.

She was slipped on September 22 for Noakes to repair a damaged starboard safety rail. It had received a heavy knock in a collision with Danial Thain when berthing in strong westerly winds. The repair necessitated

cutting through the inner hull, inside cupboards, repairing the damage and then putting hatches in the area cut out. (See photo left)



Danial Thain is still a work in progress. Each time Bill and his team of Eyrl and Mike resolved an issue that could have caused the overheating problem; they found that the problem they had fixed was not the root cause of the overheating. So far they have removed the obstruction in the intake gate valve, cleaned out the area where the cooling seawater enters

the exhaust system and serviced the heat interchanger - but to no avail. They are now working on a previously unknown component, 'intercooler', (photo left) in the inlet air manifold. A part has been obtained from our spare engine at Anna Bay and will be installed when other necessary parts arrive.



Dock Side A myriad of things are in the planning stage for the Dock. These include small but expensive things such as spill-containment lockers and modifying generators, right up to increasing the dock area

such that we can erect a small building to house our equipment and ourselves if the weather is inclement. More on this aspect next Chatter.

Ken Johnson

SPECSAVERS SALAMANDER BAY SUPPORT MARINE RESCUE PORT STEPHENS.

Specsavers Salamander Bay give all customers an opportunity with their purchase to put a token in either of 2 boxes to support Marine Rescue Port Stephens or the Fred Hollows Foundation.



Already many of their customers are choosing us and we received another donation in August.

If you or your family and friends need optical services, why not support Specsavers who give their clients the opportunity of supporting Marine Rescue in the Bay.

Thank you Greg and Donna!

ROD REESON RETIRES

SKIPPER ROD REESON HANGS UP HIS LIFE JACKET AFTER 30 YEARS SERVICE

After 30 years of service with the Port Stephens unit, Rod Reeson has decided to call it a day and stand down from his boat/Skipper duties.

Rod is no stranger to our longer serving members or our newer members. He has always been on hand to coach new crews should it be boating or base/radio activities. He is well known around the waterfront and a lot has been written about Rod over the years.

I have been asked to write a little of Rod's history spanning just on 30 years of service with Port Stephens RVCP and Marine Rescue NSW.

Stay with me for a few minutes and read a little of Rod's history that not many of you would be familiar with.

In 1987 I was the Division's Chief Engineer. We had just taken delivery of an 62' G Class Pilot Cutter from the then Maritime Service Board. My workload was massive, and more engineers were required, as there was only me and the late Peter Fisher to carry out all of the work to bring this vessel "Girralong" up to a seaworthy condition.

Information was passed on to me that there was a very nice "semi-retired" local person who was interested in joining the RVCP. This fellow was an Ex RAAF Engine Fitter "Sumpy" who had many other areas of expertise that may assist Peter and me with the Patrol Boat rebuild. Yes, you have all guessed it, enter Rod Reeson.

I did not have to twist his arm very hard to get him to join our ranks. However, engine room duties were not to Rod's liking. The wheel house looked much more inviting for him, so a Skipper was born, not our sought after engineer.

We may have lost a potential engineer, but Rod was showing promising skills of becoming a good skipper. Peter Dawson, a commercial master skipper and John Thompson sensed Rod's ability and they both became his mentors. Rod brought other qualities with him when he joined. He was at that time flying private planes and had an instrument rating. Navigational knowledge taken from

being a private pilot helped Rod with his nautical studies. Rod was not new to the boating world. He had his own fixed keel 20 foot sailing vessel that he sailed up and down the coast, whenever he could. After joining the RVCP I don't think that his pride and joy saw much of the ocean any more. Rod just did not have the time for his own boat,. "Girralong" and other earlier rescue craft were now his life.

I have sailed on many ocean going rescues and assists with Rod as Duty Skipper and never at any time did I, or the crew, feel troubled by any decision he made.

Our work in the earlier days was not all search and rescue. There was one particular job that Rod enjoyed. This was the Wisemans Ferry Sailing Navigation Time Trial conducted on the Hawkesbury River. This

was quite a contest, not to mention the trip down from Port Stephens. Rod was excellent at this event and I think that we won it outright one year.

Rod has received many Awards and Citations over the years for many dangerous missions in which he was either Skipper, Navigation Officer or Crew.

Excluding the late John Thompson ESM, I don't think any member, past or present, has been involved in the number of rescues or assists that Rod has. He has also been very

professional in his role as skipper for many Ashes Scatterings.

One of Rod's more interesting roles, resplendent with gold wire aiguillettes, was Honorary ADC in attendance to the Governor of NSW Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair AC AO during his visit to open our new Base.

Rod also served as a Divisional Commander of the RVCP Port Stephens and Captain North (Regional Controller) from the Hawkesbury to the Queensland border.

Nautical education was an interest of Rod's and for years he taught the Coastal Navigation course. Search Master was another role along with Assisted Port Entry Officer and also Operations Officer.

I wish to thank Rod on behalf of the unit for his dedication and service to the boating public of Port Stephens.

Thank you Skipper Rod Reeson.

Harold Gibson M.I.A.M.E.



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SAREX 2016

SAREX 2016



Over the weekend of the 17th - 18th of September, eight members of the Radio and Boat crew attended the Marine Area Command SAREX (Search and Rescue Exercise) in Newcastle. The aim of the two days was to provide theoretical and practical exercises in marine search and rescue operations.

Travelling down to Newcastle on the Saturday by car the Port Stephens crew spent the day 'in the classroom' practising navigation and plotting skills as well as learning new techniques and getting a better understanding of 'best practice' under the expert direction of Sgt Paul Farquharson - NSW Marine Search and Rescue Coordinator at NSW Police

On Sunday the crew and radio room staff assembled early at the dock for a run down the coast in PS31 John Thompson. It is always a great opportunity when the radio room staff get to join the boat crew and see exactly how they operate. It provides the radio operators a great insight to what is going on on the boats during an assist. On arrival at the Newcastle Water Police base all units

had a briefing from Regional Controller Neil Grieves and assembled the boats ready to conduct a coordinated search for four 'targets'. The search in open water was led by Water Police launch 'Intrepid' (WP24) with many of the Hunter Coast Marine Rescue units taking part and members of Surf Life saving Australia joining the search on inside waters along the breakwall at Newcastle Harbour.

After a few hours searching all four targets were located and vessels and crews returned to base for a debrief and a well earned BBQ lunch provided by Marine Rescue Newcastle. The weekend was another great example of the professional level of training undertaken by our volunteers and the importance of interagency cooperation and training.

Left: Tony O'Donnell & Laurie Nolan. Below: Rob Johnson, Colin Foote, Tim Boyle and Peter Merlino



Members who attended the weekend all came back with valuable experience and had a very constructive and enjoyable couple of days in the classroom and on the water.

Matt Darby



In July, the gift shop was closed for three days for some minor renovations, a good clean, and a paint. I would like to thank Harold Gibson, John Smith and Steve Picton for all their assistance and hard work they put in - as its now looking 'amazing'

The ladies in the shop have been very busy with

pricing and selling the new stock that's just arrived, and our figures for August have exceeded all expectations. I consider myself very lucky to be working with such a great team of ladies always willing to help and assist.

Denise Olsen and I will be attending the Sydney Trade Fair in September, where we hope to view and purchase lots of new stock ready for the Christmas and New Year trading.

In the meantime you are all welcome to come in and browse around, you never know what you might find, and unit members will receive a 10% discount.

I wish everyone good health and happy days

Sandra Scheuber

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LIGHTHOUSE WEDDING AND MARINE RESCUE SOCIAL EVENTS

Friday 12 August 2016

Country couple Elizabeth Gordon and Jonathon Austin combined a holiday in the Bay with a wedding, with 40 guests sharing their happy day. Phillip Greentree was the Celebrant officiating. Guests enjoyed cupcakes on the verandah afterwards.

Lynne Jensen



SOCIAL EVENTS

The Trivia Night held on Wednesday 31 August was



an amazing success, with over 60 members and guests in six teams battling for supremacy in the Trivia stakes. The night was expertly planned and run by Frank and Deb van Druten. Questions this year were in 5 sets of 10, and covered a gamut of Trivia topics from local knowledge to science to religion to entertainment to natural history and popular culture and more. Well done Frank and Deb. They were ably supported this year by one of last year's trivia knowledge sensations, young Zack (grandson of Frank and Deb's neighbours). Zack provided a couple of sheets with images of well-known (and some obscure) celebrities and brand logos which had to be identified. Zack also provided some very valuable experience at recording and tallying the scores. These skills seem to have evaporated from the aging organiser. Great job

Zack.

A great time was had by all. The winning team was a second-time winner, having taken the honours last year as well. Comprising (amongst others) the Commander Colin, Quartermaster Jenny, and Resident Wizard Ross, whose head is totally filled with knowledge and facts, - mostly extremely trivial - (which of course helps in this case). Obviously Colin had first pick of team members, because they blitzed the rest. Well done team (what WAS your team name?????). Even though it was not a fundraiser, we made just under \$200.00 on different fun events during the night.



(Continued on page 22)

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Our next social events are.....

SUNDAY 16 OCTOBER - CAR OBSERVATION RUN

Again, this was very successful last year, and the participants definitely want another opportunity to demonstrate their navigational and observational skills.

For those who do not know what a Car Observation Run is..... Get together with your favourite driver/navigator (teams of two minimum – no individual heroics here!!!). You are given a set of directions for the route to follow, and a list of questions that you need to answer

along the way. The directions do not include any street/road names.... just turn instructions at certain distances. The questions are designed to challenge your powers of observation, while not requiring too much distraction from safe driving skills. It is not a time trial, so there is no need for anyone to break any traffic rules.



Points are awarded for the number of correctly answered questions, and the top scoring team wins the "prize".

There are two stages, covering about 85 kilometres (make sure you are fuelled up), with morning tea after Stage 1, and we finish after Stage 2 at a park for lunch. BYO BBQ/Picnic/ Drinks. There will be Council BBQs available for those wishing to cook their lunch. An alternative finish at a local Pub/Club etc will be planned if the weather is not so good.

WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER – XMAS DINNER

Instead of the regular Monthly Mess Meeting this month, we will be heading off to a local restaurant for Xmas dinner. Full details will be emailed to all members soon, but please set aside the date to be sure.

**Laurie Nolan &
Frank van Druten**



MRPS Social Committee			
Month	Date	Event	Comments
OCTOBER	Sunday 16	Car Observation Run	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great fun, good time had by all in 2015 - Approx. distance to be covered 85km - Finish at a park (BYO BBQ/Picnic/drinks) - Alternate finish at pub/club/café if raining.
DECEMBER	Tuesday 13	Christmas Dinner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ever Popular Xmas Festivities - Local Restaurant to be announced.



Year 2016 Public School Holidays		
Spring Holidays	24-Sep-16	9-Oct-16
Summer Holidays	21-Dec-15	29-Jan-17



MESS MEETING AND CORPORATE SERVICES GROUP



***Clockwise from top Left:** Sandra Scheuber with Colin Cahill; Colin Couper - Watch Officer; Brett Cherry - Elementary Navigation ; Chief Inspector Brian Tracey & Lee Uebergang; Chief Inspector Brian Tracey & Colin Cahill; Richard Pizzuto with Colin Cahill.*



CORPORATE SERVICES GROUP

With the reorganisation of the Unit into 6 specific areas of operation the administration area has been renamed Corporate Services Group. The name reflects all of the support areas that are provide to the operational areas of the Unit. In order to provide the optimum level of service the Corporate Services Group has been organised into 6 areas:

Administration Services Group

Coordinator: Jenny Fitzsimons
Covers Comms Centre services, Statistics, Rosters, Awards/Recognition, and Supply.

Membership Services Group

Coordinator: Loris Webster
Covers all areas of membership - in particular the attraction and retention of members in all areas of operation.

Technical Services Group

Coordinator: Lee Ryman
Responsible for the operation and maintenance of all technical equipment at the Base including radios,

computers and emergency power plus the provision and maintenance of all software.

Building Facilities Group

Coordinator: David Bacon

Responsible for the maintenance and protection of the Command Centre buildings.

WHS/Security

Coordinator: Kevin Griffey

Responsible for all aspects of Workplace Health and Safety on the Nelson Head site and security of the site and buildings.

Unit Historian

Paul Farnill

Responsible for the preparation of all Unit historical records.

All of these groups are currently reviewing their areas of responsibility to ensure they are capable of providing the best possible level of service to the operational areas of the Unit

John Reid

Administration Officer



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BIRDS AROUND THE BASE

BIRDS AT THE BASE – AUSTRALIAN PELICAN (PELECANUS CONSPICILLATUS)

A flock of Australian Pelicans can be seen any day at the



Little Beach boat ramp as they wait for scraps from returning fisherman. They can often be seen soaring effortlessly over the waters of the bay or congregating around beach fishermen's camps during the annual mullet run in April and May.

The Australian Pelican is a huge bird 1.6-1.8 m from bill to tail, with a wingspan of 2.3-2.5 m. Weight can be 4.5-7.7kg. The bird is predominantly white with black primary wing feathers. A white panel is present on the upper wing and a white V on the rump. The bill is 40-50 cm long and is the largest bill in the avian world. Female bills are slightly smaller than males. Adult birds have



a bright yellow eye ring and a pale-pinkish bill and pouch, with a small yellow hook at the tip. Feet are grey. Juvenile birds are similar to adults, but with black replaced by brown and a smaller white patch on the upper wing.

Pelicans are gregarious when in pairs or large flocks, in flight, or when loafing or fishing. In flight, they tuck their heads back giving them a tubby appearance. They soar on flat wings within thermals to great heights, then travel great distances in long glides helped by occasional slow flapping. Flocks travel in a V-formation.

Pelicans often feed in large cooperative groups. They drive fish into a concentrated mass using their bills and by beating their wings. The fish are herded into shallow water or surrounded in ever decreasing circles until they are scooped up by the pelican's bills.

The bill and pouch of pelicans play an important role in

feeding. The bill has sensory receptors that aid location of fish in murky water. When food is caught, the pelican manipulates it in its bill until the prey is head down so it can be swallowed. The pelican bill is very delicate and the pouch hangs from two thin bones in the lower jaw. When fully extended it can hold up to 13 litres. The pouch serves as a short-term collecting organ and functions as a net when pelicans plunge their bills into the water.

Breeding depends on environmental conditions, particularly rainfall. Pelicans are colonial breeders with thousands of birds using islands or secluded shores. During courtship, the female leads potential mates around the colony. As the males follow, they threaten each other while swinging their open bills from side to side trying to attract her attention. The males may also pick up small objects, like sticks or dry fish, which they toss in the air and catch again, repeating the sequence several times. During courtship, the orbital skin and distal quarter of the bill become orange with the pouch variously turning dark blue, pink and scarlet. Both sexes perform "pouch-rippling" in which they clap their bills shut rapidly causing the pouch to ripple like a flag in a strong breeze. As the courtship parade progresses on land, water or in the air,

males drop out until only one is left. The female then leads the victor to a potential nest site.

The nest consists of a scrape in the ground prepared by the female. She digs the scrape with her bill and feet, and lines it with scraps of vegetation or feathers. Egg laying begins within three days and eggs are laid two to three days apart. Both parents share incubation and the eggs are incubated on the bird's feet. The first-hatched chick is substantially larger than its siblings. It receives most of the food and may even attack and kill its nest mates. The chicks leave

their nests to form crèches of up to 100 birds. They remain in the crèches for about two months, by the end of which they have learnt to fly and are fairly independent. Wild birds may live between ten and possibly 25 years or



(Continued on page 27)

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BIRDS AROUND THE BASE & BIRTHDAYS

(Continued from page 25)

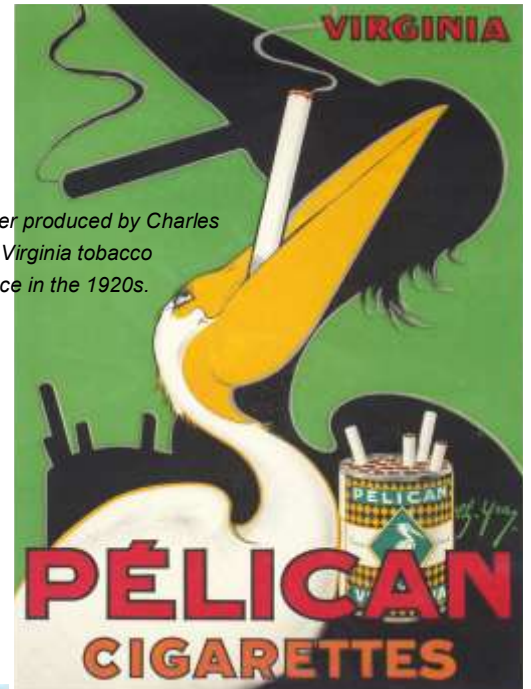
more. The pelican's calls are deep resonant croaks and guttural grunting.

Every decade or so, heavy rains across inland Australia prompt up to 100,000 pelicans, about one third of Australia's total population, to leave the coast and fly thousands of kilometres inland to the **Coongie Lake system** and the Lake Eyre basin in South Australia. Here they return to the isolated islands where they were born to find a mate and breed. They feed on the abundant fish and brine shrimp that flourish in the saline waters. How the birds know the lakes are flooded is unknown. Online videos about this amazing event can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NipFZ6wh01A> (2 minutes) and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D8NCkqZ4lSc> (54 minutes)



The pelican image has been widely appropriated for use in children's books, movies, advertisements and for US baseball team names.

**Neil Fraser
Twitcher**



An art deco poster produced by Charles Yray to promote Virginia tobacco exported to France in the 1920s.



Nigel and friends from "Saving Nemo"

Happy Birthday

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

October

Netta ANDERSON
Nola ROSS-SAMPSON
Brian WHEATLEY
Peter EDWARDS
Peter PHILLIPSON
David ROGERS
Sue LUPTON
Angie FLETCHER
Roy DORWARD
Ian JACK

Geoff HART

Nick FISHER
Neil HANSFORD
Erica SMITH
Paul BUCKLEY
Helen ARTHUR
Marg MORRISON
Mark CLIFTON
Karyn MILLER
Stephanie PARTRIDGE
Adam KRAUSE

November

Monica THOMPSON
Lloyd CROPPER
John SMITH
Elaine COOK
Maureen WHEATLEY
Esme HULL
Paul FARNILL
Colin CAHILL
Julian LYDDY-MEANAY
Lynne JENSEN

Graeme ABBERTON

Ron LIGHTON
Doug STARR
Lindsay HICK
John BOOTH
Geoff CLARK
Debbie BUCKLEY
Stephen MURRAY
Jenny FROST
Peter DENTRINOS
Lee RYMAN

PORT STEPHENS WEATHER

Nelson Bay, NSW - August 2016					Nelson Bay, NSW - September 2016				
Date	Day	Temps		Rain	Date	Day	Temps		Rain
		Min	Max				Min	Max	
		°C	°C	mm			°C	°C	mm
11	Mo	11.5	19	0	1	Th	14.3	21.8	0
12	Tu	12.1	19.6	0	2	Fr	15.6	18.8	7.4
13	We	12	17	15	3	Sa	15.1	19.4	4.6
14	Th	11.6	17.5	3.2	4	Su	11.3	20	0
15	Fr	11	14.1	3.4	5	Mo	10.7	20	0
16	Sa	10.5	13.5	32.6	6	Tu	12	21.8	0
17	Su	10.2	16.3	8.2	7	We	13.2	22.6	0
18	Mo	10	17.5	0.8	8	Th	15.1	22.2	0.6
19	Tu	9.5	19.2	0.1	9	Fr	14.7	22.9	0
20	We	11.5	23.6	0	10	Sa	12.1	21.5	2.6
21	Th	13.8	20	1.2	11	Su	12.5	20.7	0.4
22	Fr	9	18.1	0	12	Mo	11.5	21.6	0
23	Sa	9.8	18	0	13	Tu	14.2	20.8	0
24	Su	10.4	18.2	0	14	We	15.4	20.6	13.5
25	Mo	11.2	21.8	0	15	Th	15	22.8	3.1
26	Tu	12.5	21.3	0	16	Fr	12.1	22	0.7
27	We	11.5	23	0	17	Sa	13	21.1	0
28	Th	11.5	22.7	0	18	Su	17	18	0
29	Fr	11.2	21.7	0	19	Mo	15.6	21.6	9.4
30	Sa	13.1	19.1	0	20	Tu	12		0
Statistics for the last 20 days of August 2016					Statistics for the first 20 days of September 2016				
Mean		11.195	19.06		Mean		13.6	21.1	
Lowest		9	13.5	0	Lowest		10.7	18	0
Highest		13.8	23.6	32.6	Highest		17	22.9	13.5
Total				64.5	Total				42.3

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.

October		November					
Mike SMITH	14	Malcolm MILLIKEN	17	Deidre CALVERT	7	Julian LYDDY-MEANNEY	1
Graham PRETTY	11	Sue FREEMAN	14	Robert HARRIS	7	Bob COGHLAN	1
Angie FLETCHER	8	Deniece GILLILAND	10	Monica THOMPSON	7	Adam KRAUSE	1
Barbara COLE	7	Peter MERLINO	10	Lorraine SHAW	7		
Jessica LIGHTON	6	Garry McKITTRICK	8	Neil FRASER	4		
John KERR	6	Elaine COOK	7	Paul SULLIVAN	3		
Ann MATHON	6	Nola ROSS-SAMPSON	7	Colin COUPER	2		
Colin CAHILL	5	Sue LUPTON	7	Gary DUCKETT	2		
Peter FITZSIMONS	5	Barbara HAYES	7	Neil KEARTON	2		
Colleen SESSIONS	2	Pam SMITH	7	Doug HILLEBRAND	2		
Emmanuel PAPAGEORGIOU	1	Joy DAWSON	7	Brian HARROLD	2		
Helen ARTHUR	1	Denise TAYLOR	7	Steve CHAUNCY	2		
Mick MOONEN	1	Valda MUNRO	7	Julie CHAUNCY	2		
		Denise OLSEN	7	Stephen HARRIS	2		
				Doug STARR	1		

IN APPRECIATION....

Contributors to this issue of *Port Chatter*:

Colin Cahill, Matt Darby, Ross Debenham, Colin Foote, Neil Fraser, Harold Gibson, Neil Hansford, Ken Johnson, Laurie Nolan, Tony O'Donnell, John Reid, Sandra Scheuber, Lee Uebergang and Maureen Wheatley. Other photos by Iain Blackadder, Ross Debenham, Neil Fraser, Tony O'Donnell, 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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		Shoal Bay Pharmacy
		Chemmart Pharmacy, Nelson Bay
	Doctors	Port Stephens Medical Centre, Keel St
Maritime	Marina	D'Albora Marina and businesses
		Soldiers Point Marina
	Boating Sales & Repairs	Nelson Bay Outboard Services
	Charters	Kunara Charters
	Fishing Supplies	Salamander Bait & Tackle (at BP)
Motor Vehicles	Service Stations/Tyres	Fingal Bay Service Station and Tyres
Windscreen Repairs		Novus Autoglass Shop
Real Estate		Robinsons Property
		Century 21 Paradise Waters, Nelson Bay
Restaurants & Cafes		Rock Lobster Seafood – D'Albora Marinas
		Inner Light Tea Rooms, Nelson Head



NEXT MESS MEETINGS

TUESDAY October 25th

Guest Speaker: Dean Storey Deputy Commissioner

TUESDAY November 15th

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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Corner Secrets	02 4981 1160	Popeyes Laundromat	02 4984 1333
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