

SOUNDINGS



Quarterly Journal of Marine Rescue NSW | Issue 9, December 2011

Saving lives on the water



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Cover

For six-year-old Ruby Dew, a simple “thank you” was not enough for a windy day rescue by the volunteer members of Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie. Only something special would be suitable for Ruby’s rescue team. (Story p3)

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Saving lives on the water

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Chairman, James Glissan QC

We have now moved in to the new summer boating season, with all that entails for Marine Rescue NSW.

Already we have seen a number of fatalities on our waters and some remarkable and fine rescue work from our crews and members around the State. In the short time it has been in existence, MRNSW has established itself as a clearly recognised organisation, relied on and sought out by boaties as well as recognised and tasked by MAC and Maritime as a first line of assistance for jobs large and small. The increasing marine traffic means an increased workload for our Marine Rescue NSW volunteers.

From the Chairman

While boat owners who may not have ventured out since last Summer are again entertaining thoughts of long days on the water, our units are busy responding to the influx of recreational craft of all shapes and sizes. While our rosters and plans are in place to ensure that we remain vigilant for serious emergencies, as well as boats in need of more routine assistance on the water, we must keep to the forefront of our efforts the need to encourage safe boating practices as much by example as by education.

In the year of the existence of the first elected Board there have been numerous changes in the organisation. We have seen the appointment of our first Commissioner, Mr Stacey Tannos, who replaced the Acting Commissioner after an exhaustive and rigorous selection process was undertaken to find the best person to fill the role. We were fortunate indeed to obtain the services of someone with such a strong history in the Emergency Services as well as such enthusiasm and professionalism. His common sense, down-to-earth approach to managing the challenges of the organisation will stand us in good stead. I also thank

our staff members and volunteer support personnel for their assistance to our volunteers in their endeavours.

This will be the final report from the first elected Board. It is only right that I acknowledge the work of Mr Tony Breen, who has chosen not to stand for re-election and of those who are standing again. The Board has worked hard and effectively with Commissioner Tannos to move us into a positive and secure future. This was no easy task. At the forefront of every decision has been the welfare of the members and the overall health of MRNSW.

The New Year marks the second anniversary of Marine Rescue NSW's operational launch in 2010.

As we approach this milestone, it is timely to pause and reflect on how far we have come as an organisation since those first days when we took to the water, wearing our new blues, aboard vessels proudly bearing the new red and white livery. (Cont. p4)







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You couldn't have said it better, Ruby!

For six-year-old Ruby Dew, a simple "thank you" was never going to be enough for the volunteers who came to her rescue when her family's Hobie Cat capsized during a sail on Lake Macquarie.

Young Ruby put extra thought and effort into expressing her gratitude to the members of Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie, producing the delightful drawing that has been chosen for the cover of this edition of *Soundings*.

"On some dull, ordinary days while we're on duty catching up on paper work, reviewing some of our training procedures or taking a coffee break while we wait for the next radio call, a ray of sunshine bursts through that simply lights up our lives," Lake Macquarie Unit Commander Jim Wright said.

"That's what happened one Friday in October when Ruby Dew came to our base at Pelican with her family."

"a sudden, strong gust caused their yacht to capsize"

The Lake Macquarie volunteers first met Ruby with her dad Duncan and grandfather Paul on Lake Macquarie in September. The family group was enjoying a sail until a sudden, strong gust of wind caused their yacht to capsize in Belmont Bay.

An alert local on shore saw the capsized and called Marine Rescue to report three people in the water.

"Lake Macquarie 11 was on the scene in just a few minutes," Commander Wright said. "By then a Marks Point Marina work boat had picked up the three from the water. Ruby was very cold so we took her and her dad aboard LM 11 and wrapped her in a space blanket."

Ruby's dad and grandfather then righted their boat before LM 11 returned Ruby and Duncan to shore. The rescue vessel then returned to the scene and helped right the catamaran, which had again overturned. Paul was taken aboard LM 11 and the Hobie Cat towed to the Base at Pelican.

"Ruby and her dad and granddad said thanks for helping and we thought that would be just another successful rescue in our Logbook.



"Then Ruby gave us this drawing as an extra thank you," Commander Wright said. "Just about everyone thanks us for helping them or makes a donation when something has gone wrong for them on the Lake. But every now and then someone special makes the sun shine even brighter for us, as Ruby did when she gave us her great 'thank you' drawing."

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2012 Board announced at AGM

The results of the annual Board elections were announced at the Annual General Meeting of Marine Rescue NSW on Saturday, December 3.

The Board comprises three General Directors, elected by members across the State, and six Regional Directors, elected by members in their respective regions (Northern Rivers, Mid North Coast, Hunter/Central Coast, Greater Sydney, Illawarra and Monaro).

Four members of the Board are elected annually. This year, elections were held for the positions of one General Director and three Regional Directors – Mid North Coast, Hunter/Central Coast and Northern Rivers.

Retiring Director, Mr Tony Breen, said it had been his privilege to represent Mid North Coast members on the first democratically elected Board of Marine Rescue.

“The year has been one of challenges, with the Board working tirelessly on your behalf and as a cohesive group to set a firm foundation for the future,” he said.

“I wish the new Board continued success

and I offer my support. On a personal note, I intend to share my spare time (in unequal measure) between my recently retired wife and the Forster-Tuncurry Unit.”

“The year has been one of challenges, with the Board working tirelessly on your behalf and as a cohesive group to set a firm foundation for the future.”

The election results are:

- General Director – Mr Michael Stringer AO, ESM (Middle Harbour Unit) – re-elected;
- Northern Rivers – Mr Peter Campton (Ballina) – elected unopposed;
- Mid North Coast – Mr John Lynch (Forster Tuncurry) – new Director;
- Hunter/Central Coast – Mr Peter Phillipson ESM (Port Stephens) – re-elected.

The nine-member Board for 2012 is:

- Mr James Glissan QC (Chair and General Director)
- Mr Tony Drover (General)
- Mr Michael Stringer AO, ESM (General)
- Mr Bob Wilson (Company Secretary and Greater Sydney Director)
- Mr Howard Staples (Monaro)
- Mr Bill Carter ESM (Illawarra)
- Mr Peter Campton (Northern Rivers)
- Mr John Lynch (Mid North Coast)
- Mr Peter Phillipson ESM (Hunter/Central Coast)

The Chair welcomed Mr Lynch to the Board and thanked Mr Breen for his contribution over the past year.

“The first elected Board has approached its responsibilities seriously, with the welfare of our organisation and our volunteers foremost in its decision-making,” Mr Glissan said.

“I look forward to the Board working as constructively over the coming year with Commissioner Tannos and our members to ensure our organisation grows and prospers as we deliver our vital emergency services to the boating community of NSW.”

From the Chairman (from p2)

The hope, confidence and good faith shown by our members on that day has sustained the organisation through the ensuing period of growth and development. We have experienced some teething problems as we have all adapted to our new environment but we have also made enormous advances. In this year, Marine Rescue NSW has put six new rescue boats on the water in accordance with our Service Delivery Model. These new boats are now fitted with defibrillators and already lives have been saved through this initiative. The upgrades to the radio communications network are rolling out and we are working to sort out the IT issues. This is testament to the hard work and commitment of our members to continuing to provide the boating community with a first-class marine rescue service under the new MRNSW banner.

The Annual General Meeting on December 3 has helped focus the organisation's attention on the coming year as we consolidate and build on our achievements. The Board elections have seen a new Director, Mr John Lynch, join the Board and I am confident he will approach his

responsibilities to our volunteers, the company and the boating community in as serious and professional a way as his predecessor, Mr Tony Breen.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to visit many of our units along the coast this year. The common bond of MRNSW and the vitality and enthusiasm shown by all is a source of immense pride for me. I commend all our volunteers for their constant service, training and professional approach to their duties. Without you, Marine Rescue NSW would not exist and our community would be the poorer.

In conclusion, I wish you all the compliments of the season. While Christmas and New Year are times for togetherness with family and friends, I am aware our volunteers will be on duty, monitoring radios, assisting those in need and keeping watch. My very best wishes for your safety not only for Summer but whenever you take to the water. May the seas be calm and the winds fair.

Chairman
Marine Rescue NSW

\$100,000 training boost

Training activities will be supported by new technology coming to units in 2012, thanks to a \$100,000 Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme grant provided by the State and Commonwealth governments for projects that enhance the recruitment, retention, skills and training capability of emergency volunteer agencies.

MRNSW State Training Manager Nicole Allen said the funding would be invested in supplying computers to each unit for new training activities to be introduced next year. The plan is to provide each unit with a range of training technology, including computers capable of running real-life boating simulation training programs and webcams to enable members to video-conference and avoid unnecessary travel.

“This grant is a welcome boost to our new training arrangements. It will enable us to accelerate our marine rescue training program roll-out to provide members with additional support and more advanced training resources,” she said.



Commissioner Stacey Tannos ESM

As the year draws to a close and the boating season hits its peak, I urge everyone taking to the water to make safety your highest priority.

Our summer conditions will always draw more people on to our waterways, particularly in coastal holiday areas. This demands extra vigilance from us all.

Safety on board is the skipper's responsibility. Make sure you have checked your vessel's seaworthiness, you carry the appropriate safety gear, ensure everyone is wearing a lifejacket and above all else, log on and off with Marine Rescue. With

From the Commissioner

more vessels on the waters, many skippers in unfamiliar territory and some new, inexperienced sailors out, our MRNSW volunteers will be standing by to help if trouble strikes.

More than 2,600 people owe their safety and quite possibly their lives to the swift response of our volunteers to about 900 life-threatening emergencies in 2011. Sadly, there have been a number of tragedies on our waters this year and our thoughts are particularly with these victims' families and friends.

Thanks must go to our volunteers for their ongoing efforts to support Marine Rescue NSW and the boating community, including those members whose roles are on land rather than the water – our radio operators, fundraisers, unit treasurers and training officers, all those who cheerfully serve up the sausage sandwiches at the weekly BBQ and many others.

This has been a busy year as we have welcomed new members and our 45th rescue unit, at Nambucca (p23), delivered six new vessels to strategic locations and begun the serious work of upgrading our IT and communications. We have secured a \$100,000 Emergency Volunteer Support

Scheme grant to support our new training arrangements in 2012 (p4).

In the five months since I joined MRNSW, I have visited 31 units along the coastline, meeting members and taking on board their feedback. I will continue to get out and about throughout the coming year as we work to deliver more new vessels, roll out the new training scheme and source new sponsorship arrangements.

Thanks also to the six Regional Coordinators, HQ staff and our volunteer support personnel, who make a major contribution to the organisation. I am grateful for the Board's support and I look forward to working as constructively with the new Board elected in December as I have with the Directors over the past five months.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy festive season. My hope is that you will enjoy Christmas and New Year with family and friends and especially, that everyone stays safe on the water.

**Commissioner
Marine Rescue NSW**



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\$1.64m boost to Marine Rescue capability

New offshore rescue vessels have been delivered to Iluka Yamba and Evans Head in the State's North and Middle Harbour in Sydney as a result of a \$1.64 million investment in boating safety over the past three months

Marine Rescue NSW Patron, round-the-world sailor Kay Cottee, joined Board Director Peter Campton, Commissioner Stacey Tannos and Regional Coordinator Steven Reading to commission *Iluka Yamba 30*, a \$680,000 Steber 38, in a ceremony at the Iluka Yamba Yacht Club in September.

“This shows the great value of the additional funding provided to MRNSW by the State Government and the boating community through NSW Maritime.”

A month later, NSW Minister for Ports, Duncan Gay, commissioned *Evans Head 30*, a \$280,000 Kevlacat, in a dockside ceremony at the Evans Head base.

The organisation's fourth Steber was delivered to the Middle Harbour unit to begin sea trials in the first week of December.

Commissioner Tannos said the vessels were part of the continuing, tangible demonstration of MRNSW volunteers' rock-solid commitment to saving lives on the water.

“This shows the great value of the additional funding provided to MRNSW by the State Government and the boating community through NSW Maritime.”

Iluka Yamba 30

Iluka Yamba 30 has proven a valuable addition to marine search and rescue capability on the North Coast, boosting safety for the local boating community.

“This was the third vessel of its kind, purpose-built to meet our search and rescue specifications by internationally successful NSW boat builder, Steber International, of Taree,” Commissioner Tannos said.

“*Y 30* is part of our strategically located safety net of offshore vessels covering the NSW coastline.”



Minister for Ports, Duncan Gay, presents Commissioning Certificate for Evans Head 30 to Unit Commander Ron Follers

Evans Head 30

MRNSW Chairman Jim Glissan, Directors Peter Campton, Bob Wilson and Mike Stringer, along with a large crowd of volunteers and community members, attended when Minister Gay launched *Evans Head 30* on October 21.

Mr Gay praised the work of the Marine Rescue volunteers to assist the boating public as he officially commissioned the new \$280,000 8m Kevlacat rescue vessel.

“...a fast emergency response capability.”

“I'm very pleased to be here today to commission this great new vessel, which represents a valuable investment in boating safety,” Mr Gay said. “This vessel is an impressive addition to the Marine Rescue fleet.”

“It has a good operating range, advanced electronics for communications and search and rescue, and a fast emergency response capability.”

“Congratulations to Marine Rescue NSW for its fleet replacement program; its recent achievement of a record 3,200 volunteer members, as well as for its role in helping to promote safe and responsible boating.”

Mr Gay stressed the importance of wearing lifejackets while on the water, reminding the crowd that a lifejacket could only save your life if you were wearing it.

Evans Head Unit Commander Ron Follers presented the Minister with a copy of “Wings at War”, a history of RAAF wartime

training at Evans Head, on behalf of unit members as thanks for his attendance at the commissioning ceremony.

Middle Harbour 30

Middle Harbour 30 is the fourth Steber 38 added to the MRNSW fleet since 2009. With a weather window opening for delivery in late November, a trials program is planned between December 5 and 15, with final crew familiarisation and training then planned before Christmas.

These vessels are now strategically located in busy boating regions at Batemans Bay, Shoalhaven, Iluka Yamba and now in Sydney. The vessel replacement program will continue to ensure that all units are suitably equipped to meet the needs and expectations of NSW's large recreational boating community.

Deputy Commissioner Heinz Mueller said safety on the water was the highest priority for MRNSW.

“The increased funding is allowing us to upgrade our emergency fleet to provide both boaters and our members with more modern, safe and reliable equipment,” he said.

Deputy Commissioner Mueller said each of the Steber 38s built for MRNSW was powered by twin Yanmar 420hp diesel engines and equipped with state-of-the-art Raymarine navigation and thermal night vision, Icom marine radio electronics, Furuno AIS (Automatic Identification System) and advanced first aid equipment, including Australian Defibrillators and oxygen therapy.

Baptism of fire greets new Iluka Yamba vessel

Iluka Yamba 30, the new offshore rescue vessel at Marine Rescue Iluka Yamba, had a baptism of fire when it was called to a burning trawler just 10 days after delivery to its new home port.

NSW Police Marine Area Command (MAC) contacted Iluka Yamba Unit Commander Barry Storey at 1am on August 29 to rush to the trawler, reported burning 4 nautical miles offshore from Broom Head. Arriving on the scene at 1:45am, volunteer members Andrew Soesan, Ken Palich and other crew members on board *Iluka Yamba 30* found the wooden trawler *Wave Rider* engulfed in thick smoke with another trawler, the *L-Margo*, standing by after taking the stricken vessel's crew to safety. No-one had been injured.

"The skipper of the stricken trawler returned to his vessel once to try and quell the fire but the heat was too much and he returned to the *L-Margo*," Mr Soesan said. "We were very concerned for him in case of an explosion from the fuel tanks."

Iluka Yamba 30 maintained a safety watch in the area for some hours then returned to port under instructions from MAC Coff's Harbour.

The crew was again on the scene about 11:30am when *Wave Rider* erupted in a huge explosion, sending flames shooting high into the air. The fire burned to the waterline and the vessel sank.

Commander Storey said it was very fortunate that no-one was injured in the serious emergency.



Wave Rider erupts in a huge explosion

"From our perspective, however, *Iluka Yamba 30* performed beautifully. She is powerful, fast and a brilliant platform for our work. We've had her here for just over a week and the timing could not have been better."

Marine Rescue Regional Coordinator Stephen Reading said it was gratifying to see the organisation's units able to respond to emergencies so effectively with the new equipment being provided.

"While it's distressing to hear about an incident like this, it is also a sound vindication of the additional funding being provided to Marine Rescue NSW by the NSW Government," he said.



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Port Jackson tows 40 Etchells for Sydney Harbour events



Starboard tow line with one quarter of the fleet of Etchells heading for the starting zone

The Port Jackson Unit is recognised for its participation in major events on the Harbour.

Marine Rescue Port Jackson will play a key support role when the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron at Kirribilli hosts the 2012 World Etchell Championships in February.

The unit has been invited to help with vessel safety and towing for this world event.

Members have been active in preparations for the championships, ensuring that competitors could take part in the racing selection trials.

Early in November, unit members aboard *Port Jackson 22* helped tow about 20 Etchells from Kirribilli to the start line as there was no wind to get them to the Manly Circle where the races take place.

The 20 yachts were towed at once in two lines abeam behind one vessel. D Team Leader Greg Shapiro on *Port Jackson 21* supervised the manoeuvre, while Coxswain Brian Jephtha steered the Etchells in tow at about 6 knots.

This towing system has been developed especially for the World Championships and Port Jackson has two tow lines each for two vessels, capable of moving 40 Etchells at the same time.

All the Etchells arrived safely and on time for the racing trials and selection for the big event. All also logged on with Marine Rescue

Port Jackson radio base at South Head as they proceeded through the Heads offshore and logged off again as they returned after the day's racing.

On September 17, the unit joined forces with the Glebe Division of St John Ambulance, under the direction of Duty Commander Nick Adam, heading to Cockatoo Island for the Red Bull X-Fighters Motocross Final.

Port Jackson's role was to ferry the St John members and their equipment to the island and act as a support vessel for any potential emergencies. The St John team arrived at 10am with three vehicles full of equipment and 10 members. The boats were loaded up, a safety briefing held and the transfers completed.

When the St John members and their equipment had been delivered, the Port Jackson members helped set up the St John first aid post.

The joint exercise enabled members of both organisations to discuss each other's structures and areas of responsibility, along with the possibilities of some cross training. The evening ended well, with no member of the public needing transport ashore for any medical emergency.

David Hand
Unit Commander

Benefits of IT upgrade

In the first stage of a planned program of Information Technology upgrades, our new corporate email system has now been rolled out to all Marine Rescue NSW units.

IT Director Florian Glajcar and Tim Griffiths hit the highway in October, visiting all units to hook up the new Gmail system and train and assist users with the transition process.

Mr Glajcar said the Google system offered a number of advantages to users, including greater speed and efficiency.

"The real advantage is that you can access your Gmail from a variety of devices, including smart phones, ipads, laptops and web browsers, no matter where you are," he said.

"This makes it far easier for our Unit Commanders and other unit executives to keep in touch with their members and Headquarters. We've ironed out a few minor issues along the way but the feedback we've received so far has been overwhelmingly positive."

As part of the new system, standard email addresses have been established for units, Unit Commanders, Deputy Unit Commanders, administration officers, treasurers and training officers in the common format uc.unitname@marinerescuensw.com.au

"Our communications will be more efficient and reliable as we are not dependent on having everyone's up-to-date personal email addresses," Mr Glajcar said.

The new system also overcomes members' major bugbear of password demands and other difficulties of the former system.

Mr Glajcar said the Google system offered cost benefits, as it was free for up to 3,000 users in recognition of MRNSW's status as a volunteer organisation, along with additional memory space and security features. A Help Desk has been established to provide support to users: servicedesk@marinerescuensw.com.au

In another IT development, members will be asked to provide feedback to a review of the Offshore Tracking System and to nominate for a new 12-member Tracking System Consultative Committee (TSCC).

"The committee will provide a forum for involvement and discussion from members and units on relevant system matters and proposals, helping to identify issues and processes around the existing system, build a user specification and decide on the future of the tracking system," Mr Glajcar said.

As this is an advisory committee providing specific expertise, a member with IT experience and a radio operator will be chosen from each of the six regions.

"I'm looking forward to working with the Committee to ensure we provide the boating community with an effective, trusted vessel tracking service," he said.

Rescue volunteers thanked for life saving help

Marine Rescue NSW volunteers from Middle Harbour and Port Jackson units have been thanked by the heart attack victim whose life they helped save on Sydney Harbour.

Rescue vessels from both units were on a routine exercise on Sydney Harbour on Sunday, October 16, when they were waved down by a 71ft Princess Motor Yacht, *Sea Wolf*, skippered by the Rear Commodore of the Royal Motor Yacht Club, Mr Ian Dale.

Marine Rescue NSW Commissioner Stacey Tannos said as *Sea Wolf* came alongside *Middle Harbour MH40*, the MR crew was informed that one of the passengers had suffered a suspected heart attack. Family and friends on board had already called Triple Zero and begun CPR.

“...Our officers were able to administer a life-saving shock to the patient, who quickly showed signs of life...”

“We had senior first aid officers on board our two vessels and a defibrillator on *Port Jackson 22*,” Commissioner Tannos said.

“Our officers were able to administer a life-saving shock to the patient, who quickly showed signs of life, before administering oxygen and monitoring his vital signs.

“Our crews coordinated access for *Sea Wolf* to dock at Balmoral Naval Base, away from the Sunday crowds at the nearest public wharf, helping berth the yacht and transfer the patient to an Ambulance so he could be transported to hospital, where he underwent emergency surgery.”

Mr Arthur Cooley, of Watsons Bay, who had suffered the heart attack, met up with Marine Rescue Port Jackson Unit Commander David Hand, who administered the defibrillator, Gerry Marshall, also from Port Jackson and Mike Stringer and Paul Pagano from the Middle Harbour Unit two weeks after the emergency.

Mrs Barbara Cooley, who provided the vital first CPR assistance on board, said: “No words will ever be able to express our eternal gratitude to the volunteers of Marine Rescue who saved Arthur’s life. I will never forget their professionalism and the dedication they applied to what would have been a very different outcome without them.”



Marine Rescue crew and the Cooleys reunited with the life saving Defibrillator. L to R: Mike Stringer and Paul Pagano, Middle Harbour Unit; Arthur Cooley; David Hand, Port Jackson Unit; Barbara Cooley; Gerry Marshall, Port Jackson Unit

“Defibrillators are now supplied as standard equipment on all new Marine Rescue NSW vessels”

Sea Wolf skipper Ian Dale said the assistance rendered by both Marine Rescue units was absolutely pivotal to treating the traumatic circumstances confronting those on board.

“I have little doubt that should the assistance not have been available we may have been faced with disastrous consequences. But it wasn’t only available; it was superbly professional and caring, including docking, medical attention and calmly composing for all of us on board.

“Just a wonderful service backed up by the Triple Zero operator, the ambulance attendance and response at Royal North Shore Hospital. The volunteers of Marine Rescue should be exceptionally proud of their life saving contribution to our situation. Thank you from all on board.”

Commissioner Tannos said the professional, coordinated efforts of the Marine Rescue volunteers, Royal Australian Navy, Triple Zero operators, NSW Ambulance Service and Royal North Shore Hospital personnel – and the quick thinking of Mrs Cooley, who knew how to perform CPR – had ensured that a tragedy was averted.

“The members from Port Jackson and Middle Harbour units are a fine example of the skills and commitment of Marine Rescue NSW volunteers,” he said.

“This incident shows the enormous value of the rigorous training undertaken by our members at units along the NSW coastline and the equipment they carry on board their vessels.”

Automatic External Defibrillators are now supplied as standard equipment on all new Marine Rescue NSW vessels and are being retro-fitted to almost 70 existing vessels as part of a rolling program.

Commissioner Tannos thanked Mr Dale and the Cooleys for their generous donations to the Middle Harbour and Port Jackson Marine Rescue Units.

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Triple celebrations for the volunteers at Kiola

Members of Marine Rescue Kioloa, on the NSW South Coast, celebrated the official commissioning of their rescue vessel and the formal opening of their base extensions on November 19.

MRNSW Chairman Jim Glissan and Board Members Tony Drover, Mike Stringer, Bob Wilson, Bill Carter and Howard Staples attended as fellow Director Peter Phillipson and Commissioner Stacey Tannos performed the official ceremonies.

Regional coordinator Bruce Mitchell, who also attended, said *Kioloa 20*, a 6.2m Cobia Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB), had proven a valuable addition to marine search and rescue capability in the busy boating area of the South Coast.

Commissioner Tannos said the Kioloa members provided a valuable safety net for the local boating community through their emergency search and rescue response, radio monitoring and boating safety education.



Commissioner Stacey Tannos and Director Peter Phillipson formally open the base extensions

The unit members have worked tirelessly to serve their boating community while also fund raising and working on the extensions to their base. The original building was opened in September 1995 but has now been extended to accommodate the unit's newer, larger vessel.

"The volunteers have put more than 3,000 hours of their own time and labour into the project. They are to be congratulated for their

resourcefulness and determination to see the project through," the Commissioner said.

Eight members were presented with Long Service Medals recognising their total of more than 90 years' combined service.

Elsie Collins received a 20 year Medal and Peter Holmes, Sean McGinn, Frederick Noble, Lillian Patterson, Louise Andrews, Joan Noble and Kevin Hill all received 10 year Medals.

A gem of a rescue



Sapphire Rescue III from Marine Rescue Merimbula prevented a disaster for two fishermen in serious trouble at Haycock Point on October 15.

Marine Rescue's Rob Bayliss said: "We received a mobile phone call from the skipper of a 5m runabout whose engine would not start and was drifting dangerously close to the rocks."

Sapphire Rescue III, with Skipper Bill Blakeman and crew Guy Illy and Rob

Bayliss aboard, left Merimbula Lake driving into high winds and big seas. On arrival at Haycock Point, they found the wind and waves had broken the anchor of the disabled vessel and pushed it to within 10m of the rocks.

Both fishermen had been desperately paddling in the atrocious conditions to keep off the rocks and only the quick action of the rescue crew in getting a line on to the vessel's stern averted an imminent disaster.

The vessel was towed stern-first slowly away from danger, while another line was floated back to secure to its bow.

"Given the heavy seas, we had no time to do anything fancy," Rob Bayliss said. "We had to tow the disabled boat by the stern. Some water was shipped over the transom and had to be bailed out. When the vessel was turned back into the wind we were able to resume a safe but slow tow back to Lake Merimbula." The skipper and his mate had been considering either jumping overboard and swimming to the rocks or waiting to hit the rocks before jumping when help arrived.

"The angels were looking after us today and they wore blue," the skipper said.

North Coast Senior Volunteer of the Year

Recognition from a grateful community came for George Tedds in October when he was named 2011 Mid North Coast Senior Volunteer of the Year for his work with the Camden Haven unit.

Now a sprightly 89 and currently volunteering more than 40 hours a week, George has been one of the pillars of the Camden Haven Rescue unit for more than 23 years. Starting as a radio watch operator, George became Administration Officer and then President. He is now Unit Commander at Marine Rescue Camden Haven.

This is a splendid encore to George's performance of November 2010 when he was awarded the NSW Maritime Medal that recognised his long commitment to marine rescue services.



L-R Linda Jones Regional Coordinator Mid North Coast, George Tedds, Trina de Cusack, Admin Officer, MR Camden Haven

Neighbours applaud skill of MR Cottage Point

*Marine Rescue NSW
Commissioner Stacey Tannos
officially opened the annual
season of the Ku-ring-gai Motor
Yacht Club on September 17.*

The Commissioner spoke to the large crowd of several hundred gathered on the lawns at the Yacht Club, which is located next to Marine Rescue Cottage Point, before joining Commodore John Goddard, Vice Commodore Jim Murphy and other KMYC office holders and guests for the traditional sail past and parade of the fleet.

*“... a challenging medical
evacuation at the very limit of
navigable waters ...”*

In his speech, the Commissioner outlined the vital work of Marine Rescue volunteers and the services they provide to members of the community, not just those who get out on the water. He particularly highlighted the work of the Cottage Point crew in a medical evacuation from an isolated waterfront location in the Ku-ring-gai National Park on September 13.

“Your neighbours here at Cottage Point demonstrated great skill and versatility earlier this month in a challenging medical evacuation at the very limit of navigable waters in the upper reaches of Cowan Creek.”

While on routine patrol, the crew of *Cottage Point 20* received a radio call alerting them to an urgent Ambulance request for help to evacuate an injured bushwalker. The man had broken two ankles in a fall while trekking the Sphinx Walking Track, which winds through rugged bushland and is inaccessible by road.

Cottage Point 20 picked up the Ambulance paramedic at Bobbin Head wharf before heading upstream to the casualty. Cottage Point vessels have never had cause to navigate so far up Cowan Creek. Fortunately, it was high tide and Skipper Chris Gillett was at the wheel to navigate through the shallow, snag-filled creek. The charts on board and the plotter did not extend to the area so a crewman was stationed on the bow to keep watch for the extreme shallows. The engines had to be trimmed up to the limit and *CP20* touched bottom several times as it made its way slowly for two nautical miles up the winding and narrow creek. The crew eventually found a clear landing site



Taking the salute at KMYC season opening

against rocks about 200m from the casualty and took a Stokes Litter to recover the bushwalker (page 24). The return journey to Bobbin Head on a falling tide with five more people on board was again slow and cautious. On arrival at Bobbin Head wharf, the patient was transferred to a waiting ambulance.

In his October newsletter to KMYC members, Commodore Goddard said the Commissioner had impressed with his speech on “the new Marine Rescue and its part in our community at Cottage Point, including assisting an injured bushwalker at Bobbin Head, being the result of a good day’s work”.



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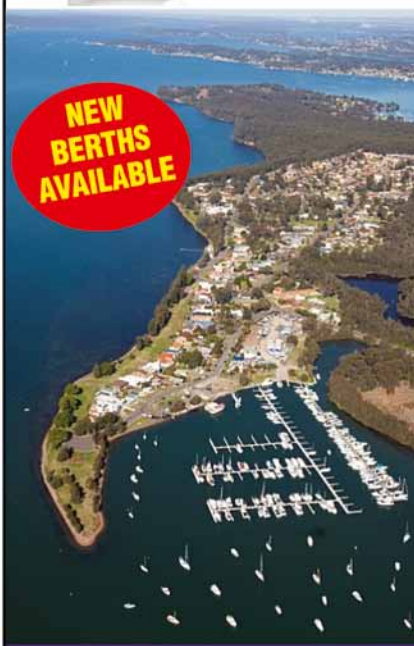
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'Injured' line up for training at Point Clare

The Central Coast's Point Clare Base more closely resembled a war zone than a marine emergency service for two days during September, as 16 members from units along the coast tended the "injured" during a First Aid train-the-trainers program.

The First Aid trainers were learning how to deliver Marine Rescue's new First Aid courses.

This two-day initial program was run by Stuart Clark of Wild Aid, with the 16 participants trained in delivering "Apply First Aid" and "Apply Advanced Resuscitation Techniques" and gaining first-hand experience with the new training kits that will be available to all MR First Aid trainers. The group's members gave very positive feedback and are looking forward to training their unit members.



The new training kits and course material will be rolled out to units along the coast in the near future with the new Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) and Oxygen Therapy packs being supplied by MRNSW with all new rescue vessels.

The group enjoyed the hospitality and facilities provided by Central Coast over this two day visit.

*Sherwin Hensby,
Central Coast*



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PROUD TO SUPPORT MARINE RESCUE NEW SOUTH WALES

Volunteers put their search skills to the test

Members of Marine Rescue Units along the coastline have consolidated their search and rescue skills in a number of official exercises throughout the year.

When rescuers are searching for a person or boat missing at sea, a well-planned procedure is followed to maximise the chances of success. Many factors come together in a sea search, including communications between the Search Master and the fleet of rescue vessels, co-ordination of air support, precise and thorough search patterns and weather conditions such as sea, swell and tide effects. Regular Search and Rescue training exercises (SAREX) are conducted for agencies to learn and test their responsibilities so they are prepared for a real life emergency.

Marine Rescue volunteers have been put to the test in exercises at Camden Haven, Eden, Newcastle, the Illawarra and Yamba since September. They have been joined by other agencies, including the NSW Police Force Marine Area Command (MAC), NSW Maritime, the Royal Australian Navy and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA).

Exercises were staged in Camden Haven and Eden in September. Marine Rescue Camden Haven was joined by members from Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour, Crowdy Harrington, Woolgoolga, Nambucca and Forster Tuncurry, along with other agencies.

Batemans Bay, Tuross Head, Merimbula and Bermagui headed to Eden for the southern event, which also involved the MAC and Navy testing synchronised search patterns after a day of theory.

Members from the Central Coast, Norah Head, The Entrance, Lake Macquarie and Port Stephens units took part in the SAREX hosted by MR Newcastle on October 8 and 9.

MAC NSW Marine Search and Rescue Coordinator, Senior Sergeant Paul Farquharson, introduced the marine sections of the National Search and Rescue (NATSAR) Manual and new computer software, SARMAP.

When the parameters are entered, this software accesses information in real time to calculate the optimal search pattern, before this is transmitted to search vessels.

A team from 723 Squadron, HMAS Albatross and the Royal Australian Navy, outlined helicopter support services accessed through AMSA in Canberra.



Preparations for Camden Haven SAREX on MAC vessel 'Intrepid'

Participants then took to the water to test their skills in determining search patterns to find dummies dropped into Stockton Bight. Marine Rescue vessels *Gosford 20*, *Norah 1*, *Lake Macquarie 20*, *Cody K* and MAC's *WP24* and *WP33* took part.

“... a local fisherman was well overdue from an overnight trip and uncontactable ...”

MR Regional Coordinator Neil Grieves thanked the MAC personnel, including the skippers and crews who mentored the MR volunteers on their vessels.

More than 60 members from Illawarra Marine Rescue units linked up to take part in the annual Illawarra region SAREX, hosted by MR Shoalhaven, on October 22 and 23.

MR Port Kembla Training Coordinator John Aldridge reports that Sgt Warwick Davidson, from Port Kembla MAC, confirmed that Marine Rescue members handled about 70 per cent of all inshore work.

Senior Constable Gary Webster conducted a SAR theory and search pattern chartwork course and participants inspected a Squirrel training helicopter from Nowra Air Wing.

On Sunday morning, participants boarded seven Marine Rescue, Maritime and Police vessels for the day's simulated scenario. This was designed to practice maintaining a strict line abreast pattern when conducting a grid search for a person in the water.

The scenario had the potential to become “real-life” when crews received word from the Shoalhaven Radio Base that a local fisherman was well overdue from an overnight trip and uncontactable, with his boat and trailer still at the ramp. Fortunately, it quickly emerged the fisherman was safe but had his radio switched off.

MR Jervis Bay's Lester Shute said the search formulas observed included taking in boat drift, boat size, wind speeds, leeway speeds and direction of the distressed vessel.

“All were explained in great detail to ensure a successful outcome,” he said.

Ulladulla Unit Commander Doug Musker said the annual event had become an essential element in crew training, producing a flow-on effect in other areas that benefited radio operators and watch officers.

Units from Point Danger, Brunswick, Cape Byron, Ballina, Evans Head, Iluka Yamba and Woolli then took part in the annual SAREX at Yamba on November 19 and 20.

The event also involved personnel from MAC, NSW Ambulance, AMSA, Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association, the Royal Australian Navy, Westpac Rescue Helicopter and Surf Life Saving Australia.

More than 60 personnel completed table-top practical and theory sessions before MRNSW vessels from Ballina, Evans Head, Iluka Yamba and Woolli, along with the Navy and Westpac Rescue choppers, took to the water and sky for a simulated search to wrap up the event.

Marine Rescue in centre of summer boating action

Marine Rescue NSW will again play a key role in the success of some of Summer's most popular events on Sydney Harbour and regional waterways.

Units from Greater Sydney will provide operational support for the largest on-water events in NSW, including the start of the Sydney to Hobart on Boxing Day, the New Year's Eve fireworks and Australia Day celebrations.

Radio units on the southern coast also will play a role tracking the race yachts as they head for Bass Strait. Marine Rescue Eden monitors the fleet 24 hours a day from its Search and Rescue Centre until the yachts are across the treacherous waterway.

MRNSW volunteers will line up alongside their colleagues from NSW Maritime, NSW Police Force Marine Area Command (MAC), Sydney Ports Authority, Sydney Ferries, the Royal Australian Navy and the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, as well as organisers from Sydney City Council and the Australia Day Committee.

"It's like a washing machine and there are always near collisions"

Sydney Regional Coordinator Chris Gillett said up to 50 volunteers on 11 vessels from the Port Jackson, Middle Harbour, Botany Bay, Port Hacking, Broken Bay, Cottage Point and Hawkesbury units would take part in the two largest events on Boxing Day and New Year's Eve, with a smaller presence for Australia Day.

"For the Sydney to Hobart yacht race, our main role is crowd control and to give MAC other on-water assistance, such as tows and medevacs. Communications support comes from Marine Rescue Sydney and Port Jackson radio units," he said.

An exclusion zone half a nautical mile wide is set down the Harbour to give the fleet a clear run to the Heads without interference from spectator craft.

The conditions are good training for Marine Rescue skippers and crew, particularly in handling the chop and swell as the spectator fleet turns and moves as one towards the choke points near the Victor and Xray buoys at North and South Head.

"It's like a washing machine and there are always near collisions," Mr Gillett said.



Crowd control for hundreds of private boats as they all try to get close to the action

Marine Rescue units along the South Coast assist in tracking the fleet down the coastline, with a standing instruction to be on call and ready to respond.

Marine Rescue Eden Unit Commander John Steele said up to a dozen unit members would work over four days, joined by personnel from the CYCA, to monitor radio 'skeds' and other communications and act as a radio relay back-up.

Mr Steele said that in the event of an emergency, Eden could also be used as a MAC command centre, as in the tragic 1998 race.

"Once the gun goes off we will be monitoring them 24 hours a day from our SARCC here until the last of the boats complete their crossing of Bass Strait and are past the point of no return to Eden," Mr Steele said.

"Eden has deep water and no problems crossing bars, so this tends to be the place where boats will pull in if they strike trouble.

"On their way back north they quite often call in here too, for supplies or just for a break to get over the race."

Mr Steele thanked the CYCA's Solas Trusts for its generous assistance to the Unit in recent years, including a new suite of radios and a \$27,200 grant this year for the Eden Marine Radio Base upgrade (see P17).

After the Sydney-Hobart, New Year's Eve will see another 11 Marine Rescue vessels on Sydney Harbour in two shifts between 8am and 2am.

The early shift helps keep spectator boats out of restricted areas, such as around the fireworks barges.

Evening crews work to maintain controlled areas and assist MAC with medical or other emergencies.

"After the main fireworks, everyone comes charging back towards the Bridge, so we're assisting the Police and Maritime to slow people down and maintain control," Mr Gillett said.

"There are still restricted channels and lots of vessels and we're not always sure about their sobriety. It's mopping up - helping people with flat batteries, those who can't get their anchors up - until the Harbour's re-opened for traffic about 2am."

Mr Gillett said the New Year's Eve crowds were generally good-natured and cheerful, with the majority of those on the water recognising Marine Rescue and the volunteers' authority to maintain order and exclusion zones.

While Australia Day activities on Sydney Harbour have been scaled back in recent years, Marine Rescue will still have four vessels from Port Jackson and Middle Harbour on the water, mainly to assist with crowd control for the Farm Cove swim and the ever-popular Ferrython.

"There are more Australia Day activities around Botany Bay, Port Hacking and Broken Bay these days, with local councils organising more events," Mr Gillett said.

Members of the boating community can be assured that resources will still be available from Marine Rescue, Maritime and MAC to assist with emergencies on the other major waterways during the big events.

SOLAS support for South Coast radio upgrades

Vital marine communications equipment on the South Coast will be upgraded with the support of the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia Sydney Hobart Yacht Race Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Trusts.

Marine Rescue NSW is fortunate to have received two grants, worth a total of \$45,500, to assist with two significant communications projects in the region.

CYCA SOLAS Ltd Chairman Matt Allen announced the Trusts would provide \$18,300 towards the Cambewarra Mountain VHF repeater project and \$27,200 for the Eden Marine Radio base upgrade.

Mr Allen said both projects would provide significant long-term

benefits to the yachting community, including competitors taking part in the annual Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race.

“We sincerely hope the grants made on behalf of the CYCA SOLAS Trusts allow your organisation the opportunity to continue to provide the vital services required to cover the NSW coast and that help is not far away when required,” he said.



“... Marine Repeater on Cambewarra Mountain to provide greatly improved VHF Radio coverage in the Kiama, Shoalhaven, Jervis Bay and Ulladulla areas...”

MRNSW Commissioner Stacey Tannos welcomed the SOLAS Trusts' generosity in contributing dollar-for-dollar funding to help the organisation complete the two projects.

“I am sure this will be greatly appreciated by Marine Rescue NSW volunteers and members of the boating community on the State's South Coast, along with the competitors in the Sydney Hobart race,” he said.

“The Cambewarra Mountain Repeater project involves establishing a VHF Marine Repeater on Cambewarra Mountain to provide greatly improved VHF Radio coverage in the Kiama, Shoalhaven, Jervis Bay and Ulladulla areas.

“The Marine Rescue Eden Radio Base, which plays a key role in tracking the Sydney to Hobart fleet each year, needs a complete refurbishment of the radio room, towers and antennae.

“As a community-based organisation we are heavily reliant on our members' fundraising to supplement the funding we receive from the State Government and through boating licences and registration.

“Financial assistance provided by organisations such as the CYCA SOLAS Trusts is a valuable boost, helping us to escalate our capital works program to upgrade our essential facilities.”

Work has begun on the two projects. The approval phase of the Eden Tower project is under way, with completion of the project expected early in 2012. Equipment is being obtained for the Cambewarra repeater installation, and with the support of Shoalhaven Council, is expected to be operational before Christmas 2011.

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Surfer plucked from rocky peril at Cape Byron

One 20-year-old Byron Bay surfer will not only remember September 11 as the anniversary of the World Trade Centre collapse but also of the day he came close to losing his life below the cliffs of the Cape Byron lighthouse. Those who witnessed his rescue will not forget it either.

Late in the afternoon, three surfers were washed around from Cosy Corner into open ocean below the lighthouse.

“... trapped on the rocks, was pummelled by the heavy seas...”

One fought his way back but with the swell building and pounding into the treacherous cliffs, the other two were unable to make any progress. Walkers at the lighthouse alerted Byron Bay Police, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Marine Rescue NSW.

Byron lifesaver, Roger Beadman, who is also a member of Marine Rescue Cape Byron, was in the radio room with Radio Operator Clare Hamilton. They set up the watch and alerted Byron Bay Surf Club that help was needed. The police were quickly on the scene and all seemed in place for a regular rescue

when one of the surfers came in on a big set of waves and lost his board. A crowd had gathered and watched in horror as the young surfer, trapped on the rocks, was pummelled by the heavy seas as he fought unsuccessfully to climb up.

The waves were too strong to allow a jetski or rubber ducky access to the cliffs and there was no possibility of climbing down to the stricken surfer without abseiling gear. The second surfer was sitting a fair distance from the cliffs. Just when we all thought that the surfer on the rocks had been lost, we heard the jetskis and Westpac Rescue Helicopter approaching.

Marine Rescue assisted with locating the surfer out to sea then gave directions to the helicopter about the surfer near the cliffs.

Duty Officer for Byron Bay SLSC, Jimmy Keogh, who is also a crew member of the Rescue Helicopter, arrived and took over directing the helicopter so it could descend to



Surfer winched to safety by Westpac Rescue Helicopter

a position close to the cliffs and the surfer.

A crewman was winched down onto the rocks in a wetsuit and flippers. It seemed no time before he and the surfer were whisked up to the helicopter and off to hospital. This was a fantastic outcome and demonstrates a great cooperation between the Byron Bay Surf Club, Westpac Rescue Helicopter, Byron Bay Police and Marine Rescue NSW.

*Pete Stynes Unit Commander
(on behalf of Clare Hamilton DUC)*

Police fighting marine crime on Facebook

The NSW Police Force has launched an addition to Project Eyewatch, an online community policing concept using Facebook to combat crime and engage with the community at a local level.

The Marine Area Command (MAC), whose roles are maritime law enforcement and marine search and rescue coordination and control, is taking part in the project for the internet-based marine community network.

Project Eyewatch now allows the MAC and the marine communities to exchange information using police co-ordinated pages on Facebook.

MAC Commander Detective Superintendent Mark Hutchings said the initiative was a promising modern version of Neighbourhood Watch and could be successfully applied across the entire marine community.

“Former *Marinewatch* programs have proved very successful over the years but people are

leading more demanding lives,” Det Supt Hutchings said.

“Many often don’t have the time or ability to attend community meetings to discuss matters with police. But the majority of our marine community have access to computers and the internet via hand-held devices, tablets, laptops and personal computers in the course of their work or personal activity on our waterways.

“It makes sense to for a crime prevention initiative where people can provide or receive information whilst on or around our magnificent waterways. It will also provide a rapid flow of



Detective Superintendent Mark Hutchings

information, allowing the marine community to be quickly heard at a local policing level.

“In addition to local command matters, police can update the community with the latest national and international information on marine crime issues, and we will provide links and information from across all stakeholder agencies, in a way never done before,” he said.

In an urgent matter, contact police directly through Triple Zero (000) or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 to provide anonymous information. Report non-urgent crime on the Police Assistance Line 131 444.

Project Eyewatch manager Chief Inspector Joshua Maxwell said: “Whether it is petty theft offences, fisheries breaches, drug running and importation or major vessel theft across NSW waterways, Project Eyewatch provides another avenue for information to be passed onto Marine Police and for our marine police to get information out in real time to our entire marine community.”

For more information on the pilot program sites, log onto: <https://www.facebook.com/NSWPoliceMAC>

Marine Rescue Boating Safety Feature

A convenient 4-page pull-out to keep for reference

Safety is the key for summer fun on the water

The chance to spend long, lazy days on our State's sparkling waterways is definitely one of the great attractions of summer.

While almost 100 skilled skippers and their crews take on the challenge of crossing Bass Strait in the Sydney to Hobart, thousands of other boaters will be heading out on far less adventurous outings over coming weeks. These also require the skippers' full attention and boating ability.

Whether you have a yacht, a powerboat, a jet ski or a tinny, the basic rules for safe and responsible boating are designed to help ensure you have the required skills, knowledge and equipment to go out and return safely.

The most fundamental of these rules is that the skipper is responsible for the safety of the vessel and everyone aboard. If it's been a while since you last were on the boat ramp, it's worth brushing up before you head off again.

All the information you need is contained in the new NSW Maritime Boating Handbook 2011-2012. Marine Rescue NSW is a partner in boating safety with NSW Maritime and the Boating Industry Association and our volunteers are happy to provide advice and information, particularly about local

conditions. Many Marine Rescue NSW units also run boating licence courses and tests. Remember that you must carry your licence at all times when on the water.

Before you head out on the water, simple tips to assist in trouble-free boating include:

- Check that your boat is in good condition. A 50 Point Safety Check will identify any necessary repairs or maintenance, giving you peace of mind on the water. Visit www.50pointcheck.com.au for authorised providers in Sydney, the South Coast, Illawarra, Central Coast, Hunter and Mid North Coast;
- Check you have all the required safety equipment on board – particularly lifejackets for everyone. Ensure all your safety gear is in good condition and easily accessible in the event of an emergency;
- Report your trip. Log on and off with Marine Rescue NSW so if you are not back when expected, someone responsible can take action to find you;
- Make sure you have sufficient water and fuel;
- Check the weather conditions on the Bureau of Meteorology website at www.bom.gov.au/marine (see also p20)

- If crossing a bar, view live web-cam footage at www.maritime.nsw.gov.au or seek out local knowledge from the nearest MRNSW base.

The Boating Handbook contains essential reminders to help when you're on the water. Travel at a safe speed at all times and keep a good lookout by watching and listening. Don't allow anyone to go 'bow riding' – it's not only dangerous, it's illegal. Brush up on the rules for giving way to avoid collisions with other vessels. Remember, power gives way to sail and always keep to the right. Be familiar with navigation markers, speed signs, buoys and other moorings.

Should the worst happen and you find yourself in a serious emergency, summoning help can mean the difference between life and death. Call for help on your marine radio and if you have a mobile phone, ring Triple Zero as well.

For all the information you need to stay safe on the water this summer, get your copy of the NSW Maritime Boating Handbook from your local NSW Maritime office or Marine Rescue NSW base. Find all the locations at www.maritime.nsw.gov.au and www.marinerescuensw.com.au

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New Marine 'Forecast Explorer' from the Bureau of Meteorology improves information for boaters

Mariners and beachgoers will now be able to use an exciting new tool to view highly detailed forecast maps from the Bureau of Meteorology.

Launched in July 2011, the marine component of the *Forecast Explorer* has been designed specifically for mariners, and includes forecasts for the next four days of combined sea and swell heights and wind speeds in knots.

From December 2011, the new Marine *Forecast Explorer* will contain information for each section of the coast, from Byron Bay through the South Australia/Victorian border, extending to Tasmania. This will enable Bureau of Meteorology website users to obtain point-and-click weather data in a clear graphic form for a majority of the south eastern Australian coast. Compared with the text-only forecasts for coastal waters, the marine forecast maps provide high resolution data and additional detail about expected conditions during each forecast period.

The Marine 'Forecast Explorer' can be accessed via the first link under Forecasts on the Marine and Ocean page (see top right)

The maps display the forecasts covering the area between the coastline and 60 nautical miles from the coast. The forecast maps also include data over certain inshore water features, such as Sydney Harbour, Pittwater and Botany Bay.

Accessing point data via the Marine 'Forecast Explorer' (see bottom right)

One exceptional feature of the Marine *Forecast Explorer* is the interactive display, which allows users to click on any 6 km by 6 km grid in the coastal waters area for a 3 hourly display of forecast winds and waves. The new feature allows users to consider safe potential boating and fishing locations based on forecast conditions. For each location selected, latitude and longitude coordinates are provided to assist mariners with comparing the forecast to their vessel position. Also available in the Marine *Forecast Explorer* are temperature and rainfall forecasts, making it easier for users to adequately prepare for adverse conditions.

The screenshot shows the Bureau of Meteorology website interface. The 'FORECASTS' section is circled in red, containing the following items:

- Forecast Explorer™
- NSW coastal waters
- Sydney Harbour, Broken Bay and Botany Bay
- Official wind and wave forecast maps for Sydney
- South Eastern Area high seas

Below the forecasts are three map sections: 'Forecast Wind', 'Tides and Sea Level', and 'Sea Temperature and Currents'.

The screenshot shows the 'New South Wales, Wollongong' forecast page. A wind speed and direction forecast map is displayed for 11 am on Monday, Nov 28, 2011. The map uses a color scale from 5 to 45 knots. A data table in the bottom right corner provides the following information:

	2 am	5 am	8 am	11 am	2 pm	5 pm	8 pm	11 pm
Wind Direction	E	N	N	N	NNE	NNE	NNE	NNE
Wind Speed (knots)	6	12	18	18	18	21	23	19
Combined sea and swell (metres)	1.3	1.5	1.9	1.9	2	2.3	2.4	1.9

All of the forecast maps provided in the Marine *Forecast Explorer* are created by experienced Bureau of Meteorology forecasters, who generate the maps based on the latest forecasting techniques and expert knowledge. While the traditional text marine forecasts are still available, the Bureau hopes that users will take advantage of the new service to enhance their boating and fishing experiences.

Users can access the Marine *Forecast Explorer* through the following links:

NSW and ACT:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/forecasts/graphical/marine/nsw/index.php>

Victoria:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/forecasts/graphical/marine/vic/index.php>

Tasmania: Available in December 2011

Make the Marine Rescue Radio Operator your friend

Like pets and partners, the Marine Radio Operator responds well to proper care and treatment. They are trained to make very good friends and reward their callers with prompt, efficient responses.

Since the establishment of Marine Rescue NSW in 2009 as the State's unified marine rescue organisation, radio operators at our bases have noted a pleasing increase in safety consciousness of skippers as they use their radios for Logging On and Voyage Tracking. Not all skippers, however, are aware of the basic operating protocols.

The most effective way to become proficient with all of the different procedures that make a good radio operator is to take a radio course at a Marine Rescue base.

Until then, here are some suggestions for skippers from Roger Langsworth, a senior radio operator at Marine Rescue Sydney, the 24/7 Marine Rescue radio base in the emergency services centre at Terrey Hills. These will help make the job of Marine Rescue Radio Operators much easier for them and much more efficient for you.

1. Be prepared and have all the necessary information at hand, particularly your vessel rego number and shore contact details. (see Check List box below);

2. When contact has been established on the working channel, provide the information as requested by the operator. Blurting out your details in a random order doesn't help us as we will always have to go back and ask again;
3. Please speak slowly, your information may not be familiar to us;
4. Give phone numbers in correct sequence of number groups eg landlines 4-4, mobiles 4-3-3;
5. You will most likely be asked to spell the name of your vessel if we don't know you. This helps ensure our records are accurate in case of emergency. If you use the Phonetic Alphabet, all the better;
6. Try to avoid contacting us when close inshore. For example, a call from close to Sydney Heads may be unreadable. If you have trouble contacting us by radio, move your boat to a different position and try again. Radio transmissions are better when you are in clear waters;
7. You may be asked to change to any one of several working channels. Please listen carefully for channel number;



8. Remember, we are here to help you, if unsure of anything, just ask;
9. Finally, if it is your first call to us, simply say that you wish to log on for the day and we will guide you through the process.

Many skippers have taken advantage of the opportunity to become radio members at their local Marine Rescue unit. This service enables them to have all of their essential personal information recorded by the unit and it means that only a short list of details for that day's voyage is needed each time the radio member Logs On.

Visit www.marinerescuensw.com.au for details of your nearest MRNSW unit and contact them about radio membership.



This information is required for radio members, most of it is also required to complete each Log On. Radio members' details in Section 2 will be recorded on the unit's confidential database. Only the information in Section 1 is needed for each new Log On, offering radio members time saving convenience. Complete your details and keep aboard as ready reference for each time you Log On.

SECTION 1

- Radio Member Number
- Radio Callsign
- Number of people on board
- Current Position
- On Board mobile tel no
- Destination
- Return ETA

SECTION 2

- Surname
- First Name
- Residential Address:
- Suburb
- Post Code
- Phone (H)

- Phone (W)
- Mobile No
- Onboard mobile No if different
- Email
- Car Regn No
- Trailer Regn No
- Shore Contact Name
- Phone No
- Where vessel usually kept
- Vessel Name
- Reg No
- Make
- Type
- Construction:
Timber; fibreglass; aluminium; steel; other
- Hull Colour

- Superstructure Colour
- Can you supply a photo?
- Length
- Sail Number
- Auxiliary Engine
- Engine Make
- HP
- Fuel Type:
- Communications on board:
27 MHz; VHF; MF/HF
- MMSI No. if applicable
- Do you carry regulation flares?
- Do you carry an EPIRB?
- GPS?

Eleven drown in boating tragedies in 5 months

The lifesaving impact of wearing a lifejacket was again demonstrated when a rock fisherman was rescued alive after being swept off rocks and spending up to an hour in the water at night off Dover Heights in Sydney.

A major search operation was launched after a local resident rang Triple Zero to report hearing someone whistling and calling for help about 8.40pm on November 30.

The man, suffering from hypothermia, was pulled from the water by the crew of a Police vessel just before 9.40pm and taken to hospital for treatment.

Commander of the NSW Police Force Marine Area Command, Detective Superintendent Mark Hutchings said: "It's quite simple. That man is alive because he was wearing a life jacket."

Unfortunately, in the five months from June to October this year, 11 people drowned in six separate boating accidents in NSW, leaving grieving families and friends asking "Why?".



Lifejackets save lives - wear them

Even experienced boaters were among those lost, tragically demonstrating that fatal emergencies on the water can happen to anyone.

In November 2010, NSW Maritime introduced new regulations for wearing of lifejackets at times of greater risk. A 12 month grace period gave boaters time to become used to the new regulations before penalties were imposed for failing to comply. This period has now ended and boaters who do not observe the regulations are now liable for substantial penalties.

Marine Rescue NSW strongly supports these regulations because we know that lifejackets save lives. Now they can save serious penalties as well.

Our volunteers wear lifejackets when on board our rescue vessels. Other boating professionals and emergency service volunteers wear lifejackets when on the water.

Modern designs in lifejackets provide comfortable options for boaters, especially the lightweight, inflatable style that most professionals use. These are available from marine supplies retailers from under \$100 to around \$200. Even at twice the price they would be a good investment.

Think of wearing lifejackets in your boat as automatically as you do of wearing seat belts in your car.

This year began with two lives being saved by wearing lifejackets. In January 2011, a 5m tinny capsized in the Swansea Channel, throwing the two occupants into the water. The vessel remained upside down and a search found the occupants being carried out to sea by the strong outgoing current. The two were rescued and both were wearing lifejackets.

Don't let the year end with an avoidable tragedy in your family. Wear lifejackets.



LIFEJACKET – WEAR IT

Lifejackets save lives. But a lifejacket will not save your life if you are not wearing it. Remember:

- You must carry a lifejacket for every person on board
- Children under 12 must wear a lifejacket at most times
- Wear one at times of heightened risk such as boating alone, at night, in adverse conditions or if you are a poor swimmer
- PWC drivers and passengers must wear them at all times
- Don't just have lifejackets on board, make sure you and your passengers wear them.

For more information see our website or call the Info Line.

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 **NSW Maritime**

Info line 13 12 56

www.maritime.nsw.gov.au

And then there were 45 ...

Nambucca is the latest unit to join Marine Rescue NSW, bringing the total number of accredited rescue units to 45.

Nambucca Marine Rescue has been active in the Nambucca Shire for just over 17 years, however, marine incidents have long been part of life on the Nambucca River.

The first recorded incident in which a vessel came to grief in local waters was in 1866, when a woman and two children lost their lives. As the timber getters sought out the valuable riches of the hinterland, the Nambucca River, with its treacherous entrance, became a highway for vessels carting logs and supplies. Between 1866 and 1944, 26 ships and at least 36 lives were lost.

After the loss of a young boy's life in 1994, the Shire Mayor called a meeting to form a marine rescue organisation. At the time, the only rescue craft available was a three-metre rubber duck that was so small there was no room to carry a third person without



Rescue One bringing back another breakdown safely across the bar

taking on water. Funds and support started rolling in but not fast enough for the then President, the late John Ward. He took out a personal loan to purchase a Stabi, at a cost of \$15,000, although by the time it was equipped it, was closer to \$30,000.

In 1995, the squad, affiliated with the Volunteer Rescue Association, was accredited by the State Rescue Board. It soon became clear the Marine Squad Headquarters was too small and could not meet the increasing demands for training and the search for a new site began.

After an incident on the bar, the Squad's accreditation for bar crossings was withdrawn and with the help of the then VRA Marine Chairman, the late Ron Isaacs, funding was sourced from the VRA and a 6.8 Naiad Rigid Hull Inflatable was purchased.

Many alternative sites were examined before we decided to build our new headquarters on the existing site. The State Government contributed \$110,000 and after a \$100,000 contribution from a local benefactor and some serious fundraising, construction began in March 2010.

The official handover took place early this year and we now have a wonderful new resource for the unit and its 30 active members.

After almost two decades with the VRA, the members have now joined Marine Rescue NSW. The squad recognised the need for a united administration to represent the Marine Rescue organisation across NSW but with the construction of the new headquarters under way, waited until the timing suited a little better, which is now.

The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner recently visited Nambucca to talk to members. Joyce Ward and Lois Bush received 30 year Long Service Medals.

We have appointed new Trainers and Assessors to meet the Unit's future training needs and we look forward to the possible inclusion of cadets and forming partnerships with our local high schools. We see this will ensure the future of the Unit, particularly with the support of the MRNSW organisation.

Owen Rushton
Unit Commander

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MR Coffs Harbour member Daryl McKay tries the high life on an RAN chopper at the Mid North Coast SAREX in Yamba



Launching Kioloa 20 with the unit's new Kubota tractor



MR Botany Bay at Lugarno Lions Spring Festival



MR Cottage Point members bring an injured bushwalker to safety from the upper reaches of Cowan Creek



The official party gathers for the blessing of Evans Head 30 (see p6)



Far left: Commissioner meets King Neptune (George Pepperall) & helper at Lake Mac open day

Left: Life raft training in cool, crisp conditions for Norah Head volunteers



The BBQ was sizzling when MR Port Kembla members cooked breakfast for participants in the SAREX at Greenwell Point



Long Service Medal for John Mc Closkey, UC Hawkesbury - "Where did those 40 years go?"

Turtles, horses - all in a day's work for Marine Rescue

Turtle patrol in Narooma

Marine Rescue volunteers don't only save human lives on the water. Narooma volunteers and a Marine Park officer recently joined forces to rescue a turtle trapped in the local swimming enclosure net.

A member of the public noticed the trapped turtle and called the National Parks and Wildlife Service, which alerted National Parks ranger and Marine Rescue volunteer Ross Constable.

Before Mr Constable could arrive at the scene, a member of the public had swum out and attempted to set the turtle free before it had apparently then swum back into the net.

Fellow Marine Rescue and Narooma Surf Life Saving volunteer Ben Bate then also arrived at the scene in a wetsuit and offered to swim out to the turtle. But wildlife rescue guidelines dictate that rescuers should not enter the water with trapped animals for safety reasons.

"It's the same thing with whale disentanglement," Mr Constable said. "Trapped animals are unpredictable and can be dangerous."

Mr Bate then offered to use one of the surf club's rubber ducks and together with Marine Rescue volunteers and Marine Park officer Sham Eichmann they launched and approached the sea turtle in the craft.

Mr Constable said the animal had been identified as a green sea turtle, which frequent waters off Narooma and around Montague Island.

Once freed, the turtle was shepherded out toward the main channel until rescuers lost sight of it among the seagrass.

And radio aerial upgrades

Boaters heading out of Narooma and passing Montague Island will hear a significant improvement in their radio communications for the holiday season now that the aerials have been replaced at the Marine Rescue Narooma headquarters.

Two new towers were installed four months ago – one is 10 metres high and the other is 15 metres. Two radio communications specialists from a Canberra electronics company and with connections to the Narooma unit volunteered their services to install eight new aerials - three VHF and five 27meg. Badly corroded wiring and old rusty aerials and towers on the roof were also removed.

Horse rescuers in Crowdy

When a retired racehorse threw its rider and went swimming in the Manning River, Marine Rescue Crowdy Head had a challenge.

Marine Rescue Skipper Keith Richardson first saw the horse on a sand bar opposite the base. "It had a saddle but no rider," he said. "That set our personal alarms ringing. We were concerned that the rider was in trouble in the water somewhere."

Mr Richardson with crew member Kevin Nicholls set out in rescue vessel *Crowdy 20* and the horse's owner was located near Manning Point. When on board *Crowdy 20* he told the skipper he had another problem. He was diabetic and needed an emergency dose of sugar. A quick trip to the Manning Point store for a soft drink fixed that.



Rescued runaway racehorse being loaded onto oyster punt

They then made for the sand bar where they found the horse in a state of panic as it began to sustain cuts and lacerations while trying to get out of the water at the seawall which is covered in oysters.

"A nearby fisherman was smart enough and brave enough to dive in and guide the horse across the channel back to the sand bar," Mr Richardson said.

Local oyster farmers, Matthew, Anthony and Bradley Stone, were called to bring one of their oyster barges complete with hoist. Veterinarian Dr Rob Brudar, from Taree Veterinary Hospital, also arrived to help. The horse was calmed with a sedative and encouraged on to a large oyster pallet. It was secured, hoisted on to the punt and taken upriver where further treatment was given.

"The vet was pretty confident that the horse would recover," said Keith Richardson. "There was absolutely marvellous co-operation from everyone involved. We had an excellent result and a rather interesting entry in our log book."

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Lake Mac busy with rescues and annual Open Day

Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie has had a busy couple of months, with a spate of rescues of people in the water and our annual Open Day.

Within 10 days in September, Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie responded to four incidents that saw a total of 12 people end up in the water, including three transported to hospital suffering from hypothermia.

On September 14, two visitors from Tasmania were tipped out of their canoe near Marks Point when they encountered rough water on the lake. Both were rescued from the water by the duty crew of *Lake Macquarie II* before being taken to the MR Pelican base and transferred to hospital by ambulance.

Five days later, *Lake Macquarie II* again turned out to help two men and a young girl when their Hobie Cat overturned and they couldn't right the vessel. (See *Ruby's drawing and story on our cover and Page 3*)

On September 23, just after a southerly wind hit Lake Macquarie at night, two men out in a tinny found themselves in the water when their vessel was swamped at Green Point.

They managed to make it safely to shore, where they pulled their vessel out of the water. *Lake Macquarie II* arrived at the scene but the crew determined the lake was too rough to attempt a tow. The uninjured men were able to walk out to a nearby car park.

On September 25, our crew was called to help three people in the water after their 16ft skiff overturned near Carey Bay and could not be righted. A NSW Maritime vessel and *Lake Macquarie II* responded. One of the skiff's crew was taken to Pelican and transported to hospital suffering from hypothermia.

After a busy operational period, the unit held its annual Open Day on the last Saturday in October, which was again a great success. The rain stayed away and we even had some sun, despite an "iffy" forecast.

The entertainment on stage included school groups, a local rock band and line dancing. We also had a good selection of market stalls, displays by other emergency services organisations, our barbeque and drinks stand and kids' amusements.

Local politicians came to show their support and we were pleased to welcome Commissioner Stacey Tannos, who presented several members with five-and ten-year medals in recognition of their service.

Martine Tylee
Public Relations Officer



One of the many school groups performing for visitors at the Open Day

Six Pirates rescued from Sinking Ship

Conditions on Tuggerah Lakes were relatively mild when six young women in a 7m outrigger canoe left Toukley early one Sunday morning in September.

The women, who race as "The Pacific Pirates", were training for a 740km charity event on the Yukon River in Canada at Christmas. By the time they had reached the southern end of the lakes near Tumbi Creek a few hours later, conditions had changed dramatically leading to one of the biggest rescues on Tuggerah Lakes in many years.

40-50 knot wind gusts and torrential rain created rough and difficult conditions and a wind gust combined with a freak wave capsized the outrigger, casting all six into the turbulent waters.

In minutes, our Radio Room at North Entrance received several calls from lakeside residents and our Rescue Shark Cat *CP007* was dispatched. Local residents, Matt Clark and Karli Tyler, also acted immediately, launching their own boat to help and maintaining contact with our radio operator and rescue coordinator, Tony Jago.

On arrival *CP007* pulled alongside Matt and Karli's boat where four of the outrigger crew were already on board.



Safe and warm: The Entrance Skipper Dave Smith with the rescued Pacific Pirates, Mel Dunn, Mary Weaver, Jonnie Swift (middle), Maureen O'Neil (rear), Mary Weaver, Tania White and Ellen Zyla

They were transferred to *CP007*, the two remaining crew were picked up and all returned to our base where extra blankets, coffee and a warm building awaited both the rescued and rescuers. Ambulance personnel had been called to ensure the outrigger crew had suffered no ill effects from their experience. The cold conditions and time in the water caused various stages of hypothermia for the young women.

The semi-submerged outrigger was marked with buoys and bearings recorded. A radio warning was issued notifying all vessels of the abandoned outrigger which was recovered by Marine Rescue Toukley the following day.

None of the six 'Pacific Pirates' suffered any serious injuries and all appreciated the efforts of skipper Dave Smith, crew of Ray Kenny, Denis O'Mara and Tony Younglove and radio operator, Tony Jago.

Denis O'Mara
Public Relations Officer

Australian Search and Rescue Award 2011



L-R: His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC, CSC RANR - Governor of South Australia, Tyrone Becker, Erin Bowers, Lincoln Wilson, Kirsty McDermott, 2 month old Jace and his Snowy Hydro Care Helicopter, Wayne McDermott, John Young, Deputy CEO AMSA

Since 1996, presentation of the Australian Search and Rescue (SAR) Award has been aimed at providing recognition to those involved in search and rescue in Australia and also to raise community awareness of their efforts. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) coordinates the nominations and voting process for the award.

Past recipients of the award include aeromedical helicopter crews, and members of the state police forces who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment in their field. Acts of courage by individuals, such as Mr Pete Goss of the United Kingdom who singlehandedly rescued persons in distress, have also been recognised by the national award. Nominees from the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard, Smallcraft Marine Radio Group and Volunteer Marine Radio Services have also been recipients of the award and Certificates of Commendation. These people do wonderful things for the Australian community.

In 2010, the award went to Mr Bob Kent and Mr David Dodge who acted selflessly to assist two men whose vessel had capsized near Esperance, Western Australia.

“The Australian SAR Award recognises their outstanding contribution to search and rescue in rescuing Mr Clifford Thurley and his son-in-law Mr Michael Veale from the sea near Strahan, Tasmania...”

This year’s award was presented by the Governor of South Australia, His Excellency, Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, when he and his wife Mrs Liz Scarce, joined members of the National Search and Rescue Council in Adelaide for the Annual Dinner on Wednesday 16 November.

The award was presented to Mr Wayne McDermott, Mr Tyrone Becker and Mr Lincoln Wilson, at the dinner hosted by South Australia Police. The Australian SAR Award recognises their outstanding contribution to search and rescue in rescuing Mr Clifford Thurley and his son-in-law Mr Michael Veale from the sea near Strahan, Tasmania on 14 June 2011 after their dinghy capsized.

Describing the men’s actions, Rear Admiral Scarce commended “not only their actions in performing the rescue but also in supporting the survivors until they were returned to a place of safety. This level of concern epitomises the best in the Australian character and in human nature”.

This sentiment was echoed by the Tasmania Police who nominated the three men, all of whom were working at the Petuna-Sevrup Fish Farm in Strahan at the time. In severe weather conditions, the three men answered a Mayday call and sought out essential supplies before setting off. The police particularly commended the group’s clarity of thinking and seamanship in handling their own vessel in the conditions, as well as effecting the rescue of the two survivors.

To find out how to nominate a person or an organisation for the Annual SAR Award, please visit the National SAR Council website: www.natsar.amsa.gov.au .



Australian Government
Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Mayday call an early start to long weekend

Marine Rescue Central Coast volunteers were on the water early when a Mayday call signalled the start to the October long weekend.

At 5.30am on Saturday, 1 October, NSW Police Force Marine Area Command tasked the Marine Rescue crew to respond to the call from a 6.5m timber cruiser taking water in Paddy's Channel on Brisbane Water.

Searchmaster Al Morris rallied the on-call boat crew, Terry Reynolds and Mark Sheen, and *Gosford 20* was under way by 6am. The Point Clare Radio Room contacted MR Broken Bay, which was calling a Mayday relay. Broken Bay advised that the stricken vessel had also called Triple Zero, leaving little information, but was not responding to calls on 27 MHz.

"The skipper inspected the engine bay area and discovered water coming in below one of the main engine bearers..."

Gosford 20 quickly found the cruiser on the eastern side of the channel, hard up against an oyster lease. The four men aboard were frantically bailing and the boat's bilge pump was discharging a continuous stream of water. The men said they had been heading out early for a day's fishing when they hit something and a short time later the motor had stopped. The skipper inspected the engine bay area and discovered water coming in below one of the main engine bearers, reaching the electrics and the floor of the forward cabin. He had let off flares and called a Mayday on his radio because he believed he had very little time before the boat sank.

Rescue boat skipper, Terry Reynolds, decided to move the vessel away from the oyster lease before helping make it safe. *Gosford 20* was rafted up alongside the cruiser and a high volume diesel-powered pump deployed to reduce and control the water level. With the pump running to keep the vessel afloat, the boat was towed slowly to Gosford boat ramp, where the owner had arranged for a boat trailer to take the vessel for repair.

By 7.15am the rescued vessel was safely on its trailer and *Gosford 20* had returned to the base.

The incident demonstrated how fast an emergency can occur. The relative proximity of this vessel to a fast-responding Marine Rescue base was very helpful. But when the implications are considered of such an emergency taking place at some distance offshore, the importance is clear of having all the right safety gear on board; flares, bilge pump in working order, marine radio to call for help and mobile phone back-up to call 000 as well.

Pat Fayers, Central Coast

Smart Skippers use a marine radio

Smart skippers use their marine radio to communicate with their local Marine Rescue radio base, to stay informed about the weather and listen for navigation warnings. In an emergency a call for help on a marine radio can also be heard by other boats that may be closer and able to give help faster.

Marine Rescue NSW supports smart skippers who use their marine radios for boating safety

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Volunteers give HQ their views on reform

Marine Rescue NSW Commissioner Stacey Tannos has established the inaugural Commissioner's Volunteer Consultative Committee (CVCC) to provide him and Headquarters staff with feedback on policy issues and proposals.

Nominations were called from all MRNSW members, with more than 40 volunteers putting their names forward to join the Committee.

The members are Richard Brooks, Ulladulla; Vicki Buchanan, The Entrance; Roger Evans, Lake Macquarie; Barry Harrison, Merimbula; Antony Jones, Coffs Harbour; Joan Krzysik, Port Kembla; George Patterson, Broken Bay; Alfred Schroeder, Narooma; Alan Scott, Coffs Harbour; Ray Thorpe, Evans Head and Andrew Topp, Terrey Hills. A second member from Northern Rivers is yet to be appointed. The first CVCC meeting was on October 18.

Commissioner Tannos said it had been a constructive day, characterised by frank discussions of a number of issues, including finances, training and IT and communications.

"The CVCC is part of my commitment to open and accountable management of our organisation," he said.

"While the Committee members obviously cannot represent the views of all our volunteers, they can provide a snapshot of what's happening in the organisation at a local level and the impacts of management decisions and proposals on our volunteers.

"The views and experience of our grassroots members is an important factor in our decision making processes and the CVCC took a positive approach to contributing to our leadership and management."

CVCC Illawarra Region representative Joan Krzysik, from MR Port Kembla, said: "I nominated for the Commissioner's Consultative group because I felt that it was a great opportunity to inform the Commissioner and Marine Rescue planning and policy with day to day knowledge and experience that ordinary volunteers gain from being at the 'coal face' or should I say 'boat ramp'!

"Volunteers are the backbone of this organisation and I feel that it is a very smart strategy to have regular and formal contact with a representative group.

"I thought that the first meeting was very productive. The communication was purposeful and genuine

"It was also great to get a perspective of the organisation as a whole and see how alike the various units are but also how each unit has circumstances and needs that are specific to them.

"There was a great spirit of cooperation around the table and everyone was able to not only recognise the needs of their own unit but also see the needs of others and look at strategic management of resources.

"I am hopeful this group is not seen to be tokenistic but rather an effective way to stay in contact with the real needs of the boating public and the incredible capabilities of a skilled volunteer group."

Greater Sydney Region representative, George Patterson, from MR Broken Bay, said: "MRNSW is now at a crossroad and what happens from here will set our course of direction for the next few years. I can't think of a better challenge or a better place to be than part of the CVCC.

"My concerns about the dynamics of the group were quickly put aside as the group warmed to the task set for us by the Commissioner. The discussions were lively, open and to the point.

"As we continue to grow some will not agree with the direction or the "rules" we as an organisation will need to implement. Good communication both up and down the ladder will be the key to success and the CVCC should prove to be a great asset to the Commissioner and his management team."

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Long service recognised at Camden Haven

Thirty two members of Marine Rescue Camden Haven received Long Service Medals during September and October, recognising a total of more than 250 years' diligent service to the boating community.

State MP for Port Macquarie Leslie Williams presented members with five year pins and 10 and 20 year Long Service Medals at a ceremony at the Unit on September 17.

MRNSW Commissioner Stacey Tannos and Deputy Commissioner Heinz Mueller then presented another three members with medals on October 19 during their tour of Mid North Coast units.

Commissioner Tannos said all the members who had received medals deserved thanks and public acknowledgement for their service to Marine Rescue NSW, its predecessor services and the local boating community.

“These members of Marine Rescue Camden Haven have served their community with distinction,” he said.

Four Camden Haven members received 20 year Long Service Medals: Thomas Johnson, Arthur ‘George’ Tedds, Colin Watson and Gary Chapman.

Another seven received 10 year awards: Ron Bolger, Carol Dyson, Graham Best, Robert Cain, Gordon Gray, Michael Morrison and Charles Troup.

Twenty-one members received five-year pins: Jackie Charman, Keith Charman, Ken Clancy, John Dowse, Kath Fry, Kevin Fry, Annette Gainey, Austin Grice, Bruce Hall, Chris Heys, Michael Lill, Lance Porritt, Peter Rummig, Ronald Shewing, Charles Snudden, Cheryl Snudden, Ken Smith, Alan Stuart, Terry Sturgeon, Kay Sturgeon and Lynda Troup.



Port Macquarie MP, Leslie Williams, with Camden Haven volunteers

Smart Skippers Log On every time

Smart skippers Log On with their local Marine Rescue NSW radio base every time they go out and Log Off when they return. They know when they Log On that someone responsible will maintain a radio safety watch on them. If an emergency occurs and a Log Off is not received, Marine Rescue NSW will take action to locate them.

Marine Rescue NSW supports smart skippers Who Log On and Log Off for safe boating

In recognition of our unsung heroes

Marine Rescue volunteers are frequently praised and awarded for their actions. This year, eight members of Port Stephens Unit have been presented with the Commissioner's Commendation for Courage for their involvement in two significant incidents in recent years.

Our radio operators have been recognised for their cool, calm manner under extreme stress.

In such circumstances it isn't difficult to acknowledge dedicated volunteers, many of whom have placed their own safety at risk to complete a successful mission.



MR Port Stephens on its historical site at Nelson Head

But where would we be without the dedication and support of countless other volunteers, who provide essential support behind the scenes? These are the men and women who work untiringly to bring in the steady flow of revenue essential to maintain boats, radios and other equipment in first class order so we can continue to operate at the highly professional level we have achieved.

We know we are very fortunate that our base, with its wide view of the waterway and the many boating movements, is located within the historic Nelson Head Light House Trust site in Port Stephens. But this in itself requires considerable time and work by a dedicated few, to maintain lawns and gardens, carry out repairs and maintenance and ensure the overall high standard of facilities to serve the expectations of the daily busloads of visitors.

And let's not forget those who repair and upgrade communications equipment, carry out boat maintenance, prepare and run education and training courses, complete day to day business and other management tasks, all of which takes place seamlessly, quietly, efficiently and without complaint.

We also have a roster of volunteers who man the Trust lighthouse and cottage providing historical insight to visitors into past operational maritime aspects of the Bay. In addition, they answer many questions on other venues, activities, dolphin and whale watching opportunities and some of the significant Marine Rescue activities the Port Stephens Unit has undertaken.

These tourists and visitors open their wallets and purses to put their small change into the donation boxes and viewing telescope, buy our raffle tickets and enter our Gift Shop to purchase gifts and souvenirs. This income ultimately provides thousands of dollars annually for our Unit operations and it is all generated through the team effort of our volunteer members.

Our Ladies Auxiliary was formed 29 years ago in 1983 when they ran market stalls in Nelson Bay to raise much needed funds. There was no outside financial assistance then, so every dollar raised was desperately needed to set up and grow the then fledgling Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol base.

They continue to work just as hard today, opening their Gift Shop every day of the year from 10am to 3pm. Some also complete monthly radio rosters or lifeboat operations, as do the volunteers who staff the cottage or carry out business management or maintenance activities.

It is not easy to find enough volunteers to carry out these tasks and sometimes the few we do have, come in, day after day, offering their time generously because they deeply believe in the continuing success of our Unit.

These are our unsung heroes! If it wasn't for them, think about it, where would we be?

Bob Young, PR Officer

Shellharbour members raise \$2,600 for Marino family

In a poignant variation from raising funds for Marine Rescue operations, Shellharbour members raised \$2,600 in a fundraising day for The Marino Family Appeal at their local Bunnings on Monday of the October Long Weekend.

The appeal was for Cooper (5) and his sister Jaylee (3) whose parents, Fernando Marino and Karen McGoven, lost their lives in a tragic accident when hit by a car while crossing a road in Melbourne. They were in Melbourne as a birthday treat for Karen to watch the Sydney Swans play.

A public holiday Monday at Bunnings is always a busy place to be and this day was no exception. Just about every member of



Local kids get into the colourful spirit of the fundraising day

Marine Rescue Shellharbour put up their hand on the day to help out and show their support and concern for these children. The cooks on the sausage sizzle had plenty of helpers to meet the non-stop demand for Marine Rescue's famous sizzling, sausage sangers.

The raffle sales were also a great success. Bunnings generously donated a Weber BBQ as the main prize and Mrs Catherine Pabis donated two beautiful embroidered towel sets.

A big thank you to Ana and staff at Bunnings who provided the venue, BBQ equipment, prize for the raffle and the kids' face painting. Another big thank you to Mrs Pabis for her donation of the raffle prize.

The day's tally of \$2,600 will make a significant contribution to the fund to provide for the future of the orphaned Marino children.

Lorraine Claude-Smith
Marine Rescue Shellharbour

Ernie's journey leads to our door

Marine Rescue is the latest stop on a busy journey for 88-year-old Crowdy Harrington member Ernie George.

Ernie's activities have included flying, which he took up in 1957, along with grade cricket umpiring and 25 years as a soccer referee. He worked on the railways for 40 years, finishing as a Production Controlling Assistant, and he and Thelma have been married for 65 years.

Ernie, 88, eventually made it to Marine Rescue NSW and has recently been presented with his five-year Long Service Medal.

He is a valued member of the Crowdy Harrington Unit, doing a radio shift every Wednesday morning with DUC Merv Orpin and working as the soft drink salesman at the unit's market days. In his spare time, he enjoys lawn bowls.

A very active member and a damned good bloke.

Kevin Nicholls
PR Officer



Crowdy Harrington Unit Commander Joe Bell presents Ernie George with his five-year Long Service Medal

Clayton keen to jump aboard

Young Clayton Dewberry may well be the future face of Marine Rescue NSW.

When Marine Rescue Bermagui took the lifeboat *James T. Lees* to Eden for the annual Regional Search and Rescue Exercise in September, it proved a definite drawcard for Clayton, who visited the wharf two days in a row with his father to see the *James T. Lees* and watch the activities.

Despite being given a tour of the newer MR Batemans Bay vessel, Clayton was won over by the older, classic style of the Bermagui boat and indicated that he intends to sign up with Marine Rescue when he becomes eligible at 16.

Clayton and his father later visited Bermagui during the school holidays and the Unit took them out for a familiarisation run on the *James T. Lees*, which Clayton described as "awesome".



Clayton Dewberry with Bermagui Unit Commander Alec Percival

Forster Tuncurry spreads the safety message

Marine Rescue Forster Tuncurry joined NSW Maritime and NSW Police Marine Area Command (MAC) Port Stephens on October 30 to increase awareness of safe boating practices.

Staff from NSW Maritime's Forster office provided information at the car park next to the Marine Rescue base while boating safety officers conducted boat and safety equipment inspections and a demonstration of the safe use of flares.

Sergeant Tony Hogg and officers from MAC Port Stephens, aboard *Intrepid*, assisted the Maritime Officers with inspections, while members of Marine Rescue Forster Tuncurry also provided boating safety information and our international BBQ Chef 'Stavos' ran the essential fundraising BBQ.

Planning is under way for the Unit's public open day in January, which will include informative presentations on Marine Rescue services, the safety benefits and procedures for logging on and logging off,



The correct use of flares is critical in an emergency

radio operating protocols, briefings on local conditions and bar crossing and boat/engine maintenance. Maritime Officers plan a talk on boating regulations and a flare display.

The past three months have been relatively quiet at the unit with 12 rescue/assists, seven of which involved fuel problems. The high proportion of these highlights the importance

of basic checks and inspections of gear before embarking on a trip. The radio room has been a hive of activity to improve our radio capability and operations. Some radios have been rearranged, several cables replaced and aerials renewed. We also conducted a safety audit of the base and have installed an Early Warning Evacuation System, improving overall safety.

Three members were recognised for their long service: John McIntosh 37 years; Stuart Debnam and Robert Ray 5 years each.

Our Fund Raising Officer Carol Parker has been extremely busy organising a bus trip to Lightning Ridge and a Morning Tea Dolphin Watch on the *Amaroo*. Jan Angus and her trusty troop of ticket sellers have been busy with our monster raffle and our team has also been selling tickets in our regular \$200 Petrol Raffle.

If you're in the area on the fourth Saturday of each month, drop by our markets in John Wright Park, Tuncurry, meet the members, and reward yourself with a feast of Stavos' BBQ delights.

Dennis Travers
Unit Commander

Mayday flashback for Port Kembla Rescue crew

It has been a very active time of rescues, training and boating safety education at Port Kembla.

Mayday Rescue

The Mayday radio call burst through the early morning quiet at "Hill 60", the Marine Rescue Port Kembla Search and Rescue base at 3.36am on October 8. A yacht with 14 crew aboard had run aground on Bellambi Reef, north of Wollongong as it competed in the Cruising Yacht Club's annual Sydney to Flinders Islet race. It was a chilling flashback to the tragic outcome in the same race in 2009 when Sydney boating identity Andrew Short and navigator Sally Gordon died after the yacht *Shockwave* hit Flinders Islet and broke up in heavy seas.

Marine Area Command (MAC) immediately activated a Water Police vessel, Marine Rescue vessel *Port Kembla 30* and a Police helicopter. The rescuers located the yacht at Bellambi Reef where it was immobilised with

a rope fouling its propellor so its engine could not be used to get the vessel off the reef.

A tow line was secured and the Marine Rescue crew pulled the yacht clear and towed it to safety in Port Kembla.

The Cruising Yacht Club of Australia sent a letter of appreciation to Marine Rescue for its actions (see right).

Emergency Services Expo

Marine Rescue Port Kembla participated in the annual Emergency Services Expo at Black Beach, Kiama on November 5. The expo is organised by the Rotary Club of Minnamurra and provides a valuable opportunity for the individual services to spread the word and demonstrate to the public what they do.

MR Port Kembla had five members on the information tent and supervising inspections of our trailerable Lake Illawarra vessel. *PK 30*, our newly commissioned 9 metre Kevlacet 3000, took part in on-water demonstrations involving simulated fire on board a small vessel.

John Aldridge
Training Officer



New BOA President an experienced 'old salt'

The new President of the Boat Owners Association of NSW (BOA), Mr Jeff Richards, has lengthy experience with the Association.

Outgoing President Keith De Haan welcomed Mr Richards to the position at the BOA AGM at Mooney Mooney on October 30.

At the first committee meeting on November 8, Mr Richards outlined his vision for the BOA in the coming year to reconfirm its position as the peak body for recreational boating in NSW.

Mr Richards and the committee also will promote closer working relationships with Government Ministers, along with with kindred interest government agencies and private organisations.

The BOA represents recreational boaters and works to promote and protect the experience of recreational boating safety, enjoyment and value.

The BOA Committee comprises Mr Richards; Vice-President David Miles; Acting Secretary Joann McKay (Public Officer); Treasurer Edward Pieck; and committee members Michael Chapman, Frank Downing and Dave Johnston (Hunter Region), Keith De Haan, Frank Talbot, David Dee and Max Clark.

Batemans Bay man still missing

A Batehaven couple and their 10-year-old granddaughter were killed on Saturday, October 1 when their 4.9m catamaran overturned. The couple's 11-year-old granddaughter survived but the children's 47-year-old uncle has not been recovered.

Deputy Commissioner Heinz Mueller commended Batemans Bay volunteers for their response to the boating accident that claimed four lives.

"It's a dreadful tragedy that so many in one family perished during what should have been an enjoyable school holiday visit for these grandparents and their grandchildren," he said.

"Our volunteers, the off-duty lifesavers and fishermen who were on the scene, the members of the NSW Police Force Marine Area Command and other emergency services all put in a valiant effort to go to the aid of those involved in the accident and search for the missing man," Deputy Commissioner Mueller said.

Although the official search for the missing man was suspended due to poor water visibility and rough seas in the days following the tragedy, MRNSW members continued to keep watch for any sign of the man as they maintained their general safety patrols and participated in sea rescue exercises with the Snowy Hydro SouthCare helicopter service.

Deputy Commissioner Mueller urged everyone on boats to wear their lifejackets.

"You don't know when trouble is about to strike on the water. Conditions can change rapidly and accidents can occur in the blink of an eye," he said. "Wearing a lifejacket is a simple but vital precaution that could help save your life."

Annual memorial for fallen colleagues

Members of Marine Rescue NSW joined their colleagues from across the NSW volunteer emergency services at a moving memorial ceremony in October, remembering all those volunteers who have paid the highest price while serving their community.

Police and Emergency Services Minister Mike Gallacher hosted the annual Emergency Services Volunteers Memorial Service at Mrs Macquarie's Point in Sydney on October 29.



Police and Emergency Services Minister Mike Gallacher and State Member for Riverstone Kevin Conolly join MRNSW volunteers at the Memorial Service

The service is held at the Volunteers Memorial, which was dedicated in 2001 to honour the contribution and commitment of all the State's emergency service volunteers and pay tribute to those who have lost their lives while protecting others.

Their names, including three from MRNSW's predecessor services, are indelibly carved in stone on the Memorial's Roll of Honour.

About 50 Marine Rescue members attended the service, with two vessels from the Botany Bay and Middle Harbour units standing by in Woolloomooloo Bay as a backdrop for the event. MRNSW Chairman Jim Glissan and Commissioner Stacey Tannos laid a wreath on the Memorial on behalf of all members.

The Minister paid tribute to the men and women who have died while performing their duties.

"The Honour Roll bears the names of 86 volunteers. They are a poignant reminder of the inherent danger faced by our Emergency Services and evidence that the price of ensuring our community is protected in times of trouble is sometimes very high," Mr Gallacher said.

"Today we honour the sacrifice made by volunteers ... who haven't come home. (It) is an opportunity to recognise all our volunteers for their hard work, courage and commitment and to not only thank them, but thank their families and employers for their continuing support."

The Memorial Roll of Honour includes the following members from Marine Rescue NSW's predecessor services:

David Waddell

Ballina Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (1983)

Edward Bristow

Port Stephens Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (2004)

Dennis Matthews

Lake Macquarie Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol (2002)

Middle Harbour a stepping stone on the path to work



Frans de Wilde of Marine Rescue Middle Harbour shows Sunnyfield Transition to Work participants around the unit's base and vessels

Marine Rescue Middle Harbour has played its part in helping a group of young adults make the transition to the workforce.

Seven participants from the Sunnyfield disability services Transition to Work program enjoyed a short visit to the base on September 20, followed by a tour of the newly-renovated Middle Harbour 16ft Skiff Club next door and a picnic lunch.

Middle Harbour member Frans de Wilde showed the Sunnyfield participants and staff around the unit and its rescue vessels.

"We were more than happy to open up the base for the Sunnyfield group's visit. They were very attentive and interested in the boats and radios, which sparked lots of questions," Frans said.

"Supporting a worthwhile organisation like Sunnyfield and showing these young people another part of the community they live in is a positive way for Marine Rescue to engage with the community beyond our front door."

Sunnyfield Enterprises is an Australian Disability Enterprise that employs more than 300 people with a disability, supported by a team of about 70 professional staff. Services are provided to 1500 people with a disability and their families across NSW. They include housing, community services and transition to work, as well as employment and clinical services.

The Transition to Work program incorporates work focused skills, life skills and team building exercises to increase self esteem and a sense of wellbeing in preparation for a working future for young adults with an intellectual disability.

Sunnyfield Transition to Work Coordinator Regina Waterhouse said: "We had a wonderful day visiting Marine Rescue Middle Harbour.

"This great opportunity not only allowed our young TTW participants a new insight into the services provided by your organisation but also an introduction to employment opportunities within the boating industry.

"All the TTW participants were extremely excited and quizzed Frans with many questions and the hopeful request to visit again next year. "I would very much like to acknowledge our appreciation and thanks to Frans and the team at NSW Marine Rescue for taking the time to meet and educate our young TTW participants."

**FAIRY
MEADOW
LICENSED
POST
OFFICE
IS PLEASED
TO SUPPORT
THE EFFORTS
OF THE
MEMBERS
OF THE
MARINE
RESCUE
NSW**

Hawkesbury safety net for big river events



First aid safety at the Bridge to Bridge. Ben Scott and Karen from St John Ambulance with Bruce Warrilow and Ken Edwards

Water enthusiasts in dragon boats, water skis and canoes all have the Marine Rescue Hawkesbury volunteers to thank for throwing a safety net around them as they take part in a range of events on the iconic river.

The annual Hawkesbury Canoe Classic is a fun paddle with a serious purpose for hundreds of canoeists, who travel 110 kilometres from Windsor to Brooklyn to raise money for the Arrow Bone Marrow Transplant Foundation.

This year's classic took place over the weekend of October 21 and 22. With reasonable weather, the 350 canoes had a great run downstream, however seven competitors retired due to hypothermia.

MR Hawkesbury members provided a safety patrol along the waterway, ensuring that the river closures were in place and providing personnel for checkpoints, chase boats, ferry gate and safety control, radio land communications, communication centre and land finish control.

"... speeds of up to 160km/h on the 110km course from Brooklyn to Windsor..."

MR Hawkesbury members and private boat volunteers did a great job, with compliments to Tony Zeitsch from Active Hire, Great Western Caravan Rentals, Trevor Pickett from the Scouts, MR Cottage Point, SES, RFS, Wicen, Red Cross Pink First Aid Team, Senior Scouts and the Sports Physiotherapy Association.

Dragon Boats NSW also took advantage of the Marine Rescue Hawkesbury safety network and BBQ skills for a regatta at Deerubbun Reserve at Mooney on November 6.

The unit laid special marks and a temporary Starboard marker, with vessels upstream and downstream of the exclusion zone. The day began at 6am with heats of eight dragon boats every 10 minutes leading up to the 2pm finals. The tidal effects of the Hawkesbury, were an advantage for the early heats but slowed the finalists.

Three hundred competitors then took part in the annual Bridge to Bridge Water Ski Race on November 12 and 13, reaching speeds of up to 160km/h on the 110km course from Brooklyn to Windsor.

MR Hawkesbury again played a major role, organising more than 60 control vessels to provide a safety network for this popular event.

Ken Anthonisz
Publicity Officer

Torchlight search and skill on the bar

Two rescues, involving a night search and a tricky bar crossing, challenged Camden Haven crews in September and October.

Radio operator Ken Smith was on duty when he received a phone call from an off duty operator about 7.30pm on September 16 reporting that a friend, aboard *CH 497*, was in trouble after the boat's engine had caught fire and lost all electrics.

*"The skipper's torch, low on power, provided just enough light for *Rescue 2* to eventually locate the vessel."*

The skipper had extinguished the fire after disconnecting his battery and was only contactable by mobile phone. A check indicated the vessel was not logged on but the skipper reported there were two people on board, no injuries and the boat was drifting half-way between Point Perpendicular and Lewis Rock.

The skipper's torch, low on power, provided just enough light for *Rescue 2* to eventually locate the vessel.

A relief radio operator, Mick Lill, was called and arrived at 7.50pm, along with Ken Clancy and Ken Rutledge, who were joined by Ken Smith as the third crew member. They headed to the reported location of *CH 497* but were unable to locate the vessel. Another phone call was made to check its location, which the skipper gave as east of Point Perpendicular and in line with Tacking Point Light House. Although the night was clear and the sea smooth, there was no moon so it was difficult to find a vessel without lights. The skipper's torch, low on power, provided just enough light for *Rescue 2* to eventually locate the vessel.

By 8.30pm, *CH 497* had been found at the Titan Wreck and was under tow and 25 minutes later, both vessels were safely in the river and heading to the launch ramp.

This incident is a reminder for members of the boating community to log on with Marine Rescue and store the number of the nearest base radio room in their mobile phones when heading out.

At 7.26am on October 5, radio officer Michael Lill received a call from the skipper of the 10.4m sloop, *Capricorn Dancer*, advising he was having engine trouble and needed help to cross the Camden Haven Bar and berth further up the river to undertake repairs.

Skipper Ken Rutledge and crew Keith Charman, Ken Smith and Joe Pernecker headed out aboard *Rescue 2* to provide a tow across the bar. At 7.48am, *Rescue 2* advised VKG and Laurieton Base that they were proceeding to cross the bar to assist the stricken vessel.

Negotiating a sloppy bar that had a run out tide, *Rescue 2* came alongside the stricken vessel, securing a tow line to head back to the Camden Haven River. A southerly breeze of approximately 15 knots and a sea direction to the south and a choppy run out tide made the bar crossing a delicate tow assist.

By 8.17am, *Rescue 2* and *Capricorn Dancer* were safely back in the river and the damaged vessel was towed to the Laurieton United Services Club wharf for repairs.

The skipper later visited the radio room to leave a cash donation in appreciation for the help he received, before radioing in at 5.28am the next day to report he was preparing to leave the Camden Haven, headed for Port Stephens.

Ron Neville
Publicity Officer

Midnight in Jervis Bay

At 11pm on Wednesday August 17, Marine Rescue Jervis Bay was called to rescue a vessel washed onto rocks at Huskisson.

The distress radio call was received by our after-hours standby station, Marine Rescue Shoalhaven, who alerted our Unit Commander Greg Atkinson.

A crew including Skipper Wayne Walker, John Gallimore and myself, made for the dock at Creswell and our rescue vessel, the *Colin Woods*. While underway to Huskisson, we learned from MR Shoalhaven that we were going to a 42ft mono hull yacht with two people on board. It had been pushed ashore at the entrance to Currembene Creek and had almost lost all battery power.



Wayne Walker, skipper of the "Colin Woods"

approach very cautiously as the tide was running out and water depth was minimal. With John Gallimore feeding out the tow line I was able to get into a throwing position on the bow of the *Colin Woods*.

With some very skilful manoeuvring, Skipper Wayne Walker closed the gap to about 10 metres from where I was able to launch a successful throw to the yacht's skipper, who made it fast to the bow bollard. We reversed out to deeper water while feeding out the line. It was then transferred to our stern tow post and after a quick 180° turn, we began to drag the vessel off the sand. A lot of horsepower was needed to free the 10 tonne vessel but eventually it came free.

It was too rough elsewhere to safely secure the vessel and permission was obtained from the Navy to tow the vessel to HMAS Creswell where it was secured overnight. During the tow, the skipper informed us that he had damaged his propeller shaft and was taking on water. With the seas continuing to increase, we were relieved when we successfully docked the vessel at Creswell.

After berthing the *Colin Woods*, we obtained the necessary reporting details, informed the skipper who to contact for salvage towing and repair work, patted ourselves on the back for another successful rescue by Marine Rescue Jervis Bay, then packed up our gear and went home.

Lester Shute
Publicity Officer

Coffs Harbour prepares for busy boating season



Visiting Year 3 primary school students on the Coffs Harbour base roof and viewing platform

Members of Marine Rescue Coffs Harbour have worked hard in the lead-up to the annual peak boating season to improve their base on Beacon Hill. The unit has overcome a lack of storage space with a smart set of built-in cupboards and a movable storage cabinet, both very generously provided by a local firm, Infracraft Pty Ltd.

External security lighting has been replaced by a modern and secure system with the help of another local firm, Reg Latter Electrical. A big thank you to both these businesses, which have made a major contribution towards creating an asset welcomed by members and the public alike.

Activity on the water has been very mixed, with long periods of poor weather conditions and *sécurités*, interspersed with flurries of busy days. Rescue boat *CR2* has done the usual tows and rafts, jump starts and escorts back into harbour. One particularly tricky assist was a yacht whose steering had locked up in a full port lock, so when it was towed, rather than following nicely behind, it ran parallel to *CR2* off the port stern!

CR2 also performed escort duty for a large group of paddlers taking part in the annual Christian Surfers Paddle Against Poverty from Sawtell to Coffs Harbour, was on standby in the harbour during a foreshore stage of the World Rally Championships and also led the game fishing boats out of the harbour to mark the start of the annual Hot Current tournament.

Unit Commander Graeme King has attended meetings of the Rotary Clubs of Coffs City and Coffs Harbour South to receive two very generous donations. He also spoke to Coffs Harbour Day View Club and Sawtell Rotary Club. Members also had a stall at the local Neighbourhood Centre Open Day, attended the Police Remembrance Day service and acted as marshals at the Coffs City Cycle Challenge.

The unit also hosted a group of more than 40 Year 3 primary school students who were thrilled when a chosen few were allowed to speak to a local charter boat by radio.

Two Coffs Harbour members, Alan Scott and Tony Jones, were appointed to the Commissioner's Volunteer Consultative Committee. Commissioner Stacey Tannos, Deputy Commissioner Heinz Mueller and IT Director Florian Glajcar have all visited the unit recently.

Lindy Powells
Admin Officer

MRNSW takes to the Alpine waters

Members of Marine Rescue Batemans Bay have been taking a road less travelled – inland – to help extend the organisation’s services to the boating community.

As part of our commitment to establish new services on inland waters, MR Batemans Bay has been working to establish our first non-coastal presence on the Alpine Lakes at Jindabyne.

The proposed establishment of a new Marine Rescue unit at Alpine Lakes, based on Lake Eucumbene, has been approved by the Local Rescue Committee and will now go to the District Rescue Committee before being considered by the State Rescue Board for recommendation to the Emergency Services Minister.

Batemans Bay volunteers Glenn Sullivan and Greg Lee, accompanied by Monaro Regional Coordinator Bob Herbert, recently towed *Batemans 10*, the work horse of the bay, to the Alpine Lakes for a weekend of boat handling and general seamanship training for new members.



Preparing for a training session on the Alpine Lakes

The potential crews were put through their paces practising manoeuvring, man overboard drills and the use of the response equipment carried on board Marine Rescue vessels. Three to four members in two shifts a day took part in this intensive training with Greg and Glenn.

This exercise followed a previous weekend of sea survival training with Bob and Glenn and an outing to the Snowy Mountains Trout Festival to help raise awareness of our organisation and services for boaters on the inland waters.

Bob was busy with the crews on Lake Eucumbene on board the *Sailfish*, undertaking training and answering many questions from locals and tourists alike.

NSW Maritime and the NSW Police were on the Lakes as well, checking boating compliance and Bob reported that it was welcoming to see the three different organisations working together to boost public safety on the water.

Maritime Boating Safety officers also stated that it was good to see Marine Rescue’s presence on the lakes.

Bob, Glenn and Greg would like to extend their thanks to the local Police, the new members and the locals of Jindabyne, who made for an enjoyable training experience.

Bob Herbert
Regional Coordinator

Desperate effort to save whale

A beached whale, a major search and rescue exercise and fundraising, fundraising were on the Ulladulla Unit’s radar over the winter quarter.

With normal water traffic reduced to a trickle, members concentrated on housekeeping chores – raising cash and keeping the vessels rescue ready.

The annual whale migration was apparently much larger than usual so it was almost inevitable there would be an incident involving one of the creatures.

A young humpback beached itself among rocks at Rennie’s Beach, south of Ulladulla’s Warden Head lighthouse and sparked a chain of events that led to a great co-operative effort with other services.

Surfers first spotted the distressed mammal, alerting National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) personnel, who sought Marine Rescue help. Meanwhile, volunteers from ORRCA were on the scene, keeping spectators at bay and monitoring the whale’s condition, hoping it might free itself on the night’s high tide.

When this didn’t eventuate, crews were put on standby to assist at the following high tide. However, it soon became clear a rescue was very unlikely and unfortunately, the whale died before help could be given.

But for Marine Rescue, the job didn’t end there as Police and NPWS asked if the remains could be taken out to sea. This began a tricky operation for crew on both *Lewis Dunn* and *Encounter*.

Liaising with their fellow rescuers, the crews took both vessels close inshore, where divers arranged by NPWS were waiting to take a floating line to the whale’s location.

This line was attached then passed to *Encounter* for the five nautical mile journey to sea, where the whale was returned to the ocean.

Unit Commander Doug Musker said: “We were all very disappointed that it wasn’t the rescue everyone hoped for. On the positive side, it was a good opportunity to work closely with other organisations in the rescue attempt.”

Much more successful was the joint Search and Rescue exercise at Greenwell Point in October (story p15).

Ashore, members have continued working hard to keep our vessels seaworthy. *Encounter* is a tough and reliable vessel, but one requiring increasing amounts of time, effort and funds to keep at operational readiness.

Members’ fundraising efforts were rewarded with a generous donation for their work at the Ulladulla region’s Kidgeree music festival. During the two-day event – fast becoming a big drawcard on the tourist calendar – members acted as cooks and traffic marshals.

Auxiliary members continue to devote many hours to running the food and beverage shop and are expecting a big rise in business with the upcoming tourist holiday season.

Jamie Roberts
PR Officer



‘Encounter’ close inshore to retrieve dead whale for its last journey

In Memoriam

**Mary Penny OAM
August 20, 1919 –
October 29, 2011.**

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

Long before Mary Andrew married Raymond Penny on June 18 1938, her favourite song was Pennies From Heaven.

When we look back on her extraordinary life it is possible that we have been truly blessed with a remarkable 'Penny From Heaven'.

Whether fishing for mackerel and battling wild storms off the Queensland coast, entertaining movie stars at her Double Bay restaurant, running a boatshed or saving lives with the (then) RVCP, Mary Penny didn't waste a minute of her 92 years.

She even found time to write her autobiography, "Never a Dull Moment" and collate her husband's letters from WWII for the National Museum in Canberra.

Born in Scotland, Mary immigrated to Australia with her parents at the age of five.

At the age of 10 she won a life membership to the RSPCA for an article she wrote on animals. This passion for writing continued, not only with her autobiography, but also in poetry and short fiction. She was appointed the 'Queen of Crime' (Sydney Writers Group 2008).

At 13 she encountered "the most momentous event of my entire life", meeting Raymond, the man she would later marry. "He was a very colourful character. It was love at first sight for both of us," she had said.

1940/43 found them in Townsville and Mary discovered she took to sailing, fishing and all things maritime like a duck to water. She then spent two years fishing for mackerel, as the only licensed woman in the Queensland fishing fleet at the time.

Although treated with some suspicion by the other women of Townsville, the men dubbed her the 'Mechanical Woman', treating her as an equal. With the Pacific war looming, the Pennys returned to Sydney, where Raymond enlisted.

At war's end, Mary and Raymond opened a restaurant, Penny's, at Double Bay, ranked as one of the finest in Sydney. There they entertained celebrities such as Rod Taylor, Nat King Cole, Ann Miller, Stan Freberg and Peter Lawford.



Mary Penny OAM 1919 – 2011

"I knew what it was like to be at sea in a fierce storm and what comfort it was to hear a friendly voice."

A change of lifestyle saw them head to Port Stephens, opening up a salt works and later becoming owners of a boat shed at Soldiers Point.

They became members of the RVCP in 1983 – a decision that had a huge impact on the establishment of our Base, Ladies Auxiliary and gift shop. They worked tirelessly, installed radios at home and monitoring 24/7. Mary said: "I knew what it was like to be at sea in a fierce storm and what comfort it was to hear a friendly voice."

At night they guided mariners through safe water avoiding the bar by torchlight, from their home atop the ridge at Soldiers Point. She realised the need for radio operators to have a reference book to provide advice to boat owners and produced what became known as Mary's Bible. Many other bases along the NSW coast copied it.

In 1984, she instigated our monthly 'Port Chatter' which she edited for 17 years. It still continues, some 28 years later.

She formed our Ladies Auxiliary, organised market stalls (it is estimated she made 7,000 jars of pickles and hundreds of jars of lemon butter) and was the inspiration in setting up our gift shop. She served several terms as President and Vice President and later as Patron, a role she held throughout the rest of her life.

In 1989, she was awarded Life Membership to the RVCP, which continued to be recognised by Marine Rescue NSW.

In 2000, she was awarded the Order of Australia and in 2001, the Centenary Medal for service to the community.

Despite her colourful background, Mary had one small regret: "I would have loved to have had a singing career." She would have been proud of her family at her funeral service as they honoured her passing and sang...*Pennies from Heaven*.

**Bob Young
PR Officer**

“Don’t retire - you just get busier!”

So goes a wistful cry frequently heard around the Units and often used by David Lyall, a retired Chartered Builder.



David Lyall

David is working with headquarters to assist with property matters such as name changes, leases/licences and the Marine Rescue NSW Property Register. His career background includes 30 years in private enterprise in construction both in NSW and Queensland and then 20 years with Local Government in property and asset management. A sound background of infrastructure knowledge includes the first floating marina at the Spit, designing

numerous marinas and the design and maintenance of waterfront infrastructure around Pittwater, as well as many highrise and domestic buildings. During his private enterprise years, David was the NSW President and also a National Councillor of the Australian Institute of Building. He has said he is more than happy to give advice to Units on Unit building matters or dealing with local councils as long as he “doesn’t have to swing the hammer or cart the bricks”.

Boating and water sports have always been a passion for David in swimming, surf, sailing and yacht clubs. He has acquired the honours of Past President and Life Member Bilgola SLSC, Past Commodore and Life Member Avalon Sailing Club, Past Vice-President and Life Member Boat Owners Association of NSW over the years. His boating and yachting qualifications are AYF power and rescue boat instructor and examiner, coach and sailing master, day and inshore skipper and he was the Principal of the ASC training establishment. David claims he knows most of the coast of NSW but only from the seaward side after more than 20 years of offshore racing. Luckily, he claims he has only come in contact with the land once while sailing and that was the western tip of Lion Island.

David at present sits on numerous maritime committees, including the NSW Maritime Pittwater User Group, Recreational Vessels Advisory Group and the Better Boating Program

In the 2001 Queen’s Honours List, David was awarded the Public Service Medal for services to the community to complement his professional qualification of Fellow of the Australian Institute of Building.

David is married, lives at Clareville (overlooking his Spacesailer 24 yacht) and has three sons and six grandchildren.

David is always available to assist Units with matters within his scope and can be contacted through Headquarters.

Letters

2nd November 2011

The Editor

Congratulations on a very well set out and informative magazine.

I would like to congratulate the ‘young’ fella, Frank McDonald on 69 years service. That is a record in anyone’s books and someone, like an MP from his electorate, should bring this to the notice of State Government and have it noted in “Hansard”.

Also I would like to congratulate “Shorty” Mathieson on obtaining his 30 year long service medal and the privilege of having a vessel named in his honour.

I was involved with “Shorty” in the Wollongong Division of the RVCP from 1989 to 1995 when I left Wollongong and moved to Queensland.

“Shorty” was a duty officer at the time and he was a no nonsense person and had a good crew under him and was one of the most consistent duty officers to turn up on his rostered day. He was, or maybe still is, a mad “fisho”.

It’s great that he is working now in Marine Rescue NSW as he has a wealth of knowledge to be tapped.

Regards,

Merv and Miriam Moore

Mt Maria, QLD

By email

14 November 2011

I wish to thank you for your assistance today when my boat developed engine problems off West Head in Broken Bay. You arranged for the Water Police to tow us back to Pretty Beach boat ramp and I even received a follow up phone call later in the day to make sure all was ok. Very much appreciated.

J McGrath

Dear Stacey

No words will ever be able to express our eternal gratitude to the volunteers of Marine Rescue who saved Arthur’s life on Sunday October 16th 2011.

While I don’t remember their names, I will never forget their professionalism and the dedication they applied to what would have been a very different outcome, without them. Also, I will never forget their kindness and consideration for me personally.

Arthur and I would greatly appreciate it if you would pass on to those wonderful men, our heartfelt gratitude and enormous thanks for all they did.

We would like to assist them on their wonderful endeavours for the future by donating \$4000 to be used in any way you see fit, to enable them to continue their wonderful and life saving work.

Yours sincerely

Arthur and Barbara Cooley
Watsons Bay NSW

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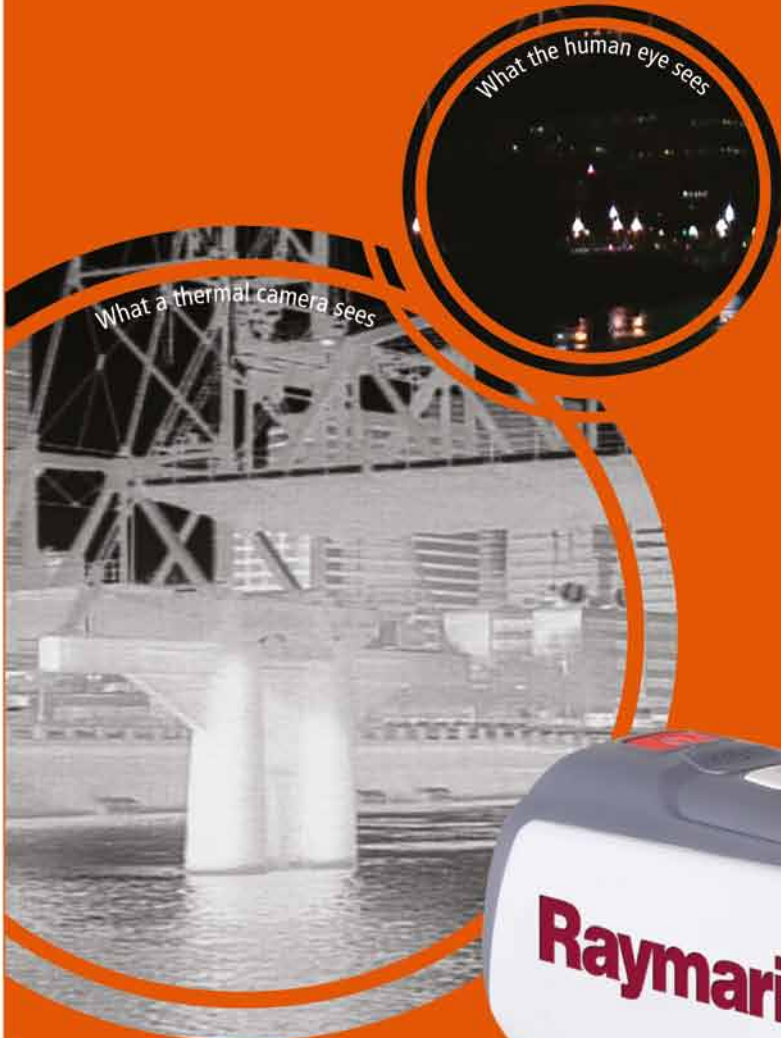


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