



CLARENCE HOUSE

As Patron-in-Chief, I cannot tell you how delighted I am to be able to offer my warmest congratulations and gratitude to the members of Marine Rescue New South Wales for a decade of service to the New South Wales community.

I have had the great pleasure to meet a number of you during my visits to Sydney over the years and I have been much impressed by your remarkable enthusiasm and dedication to the Australian volunteering ethos.

There can be no more honourable cause than to save the lives of others and the fact that you give your time and dedicate yourselves so wholly to the service of others brings great credit to you all.

You have worked together as a united team under the flag of Marine Rescue N.S.W. since its establishment in 2009, bringing together the three former marine rescue services that had long served the people of your State with distinction.

You have also built on the strong foundations laid by the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol, the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association and the marine fleet of the N.S.W. Volunteer Rescue Association to create a strong and modern emergency service, capable of meeting the increasing demand from a growing boating community attracted to some of the world's most beautiful waterways.

Over the past ten years, your crews have launched more than 25,000 rescue operations, including over 7,000 to save sailors caught in life-endangering emergencies. Your members have placed their own well-being at risk in challenging conditions and adverse weather to answer the call for help.

Your round-the-clock safety watch over the marine radio network has ensured a rapid response to distress calls from those in trouble on the water, with the calming assurance that help is on the way.

Over the past decade, Marine Rescue N.S.W. has embraced the challenges of advancement, delivering more than ninety new and refurbished rescue vessels, introducing new communications technology and delivering professional training to build volunteer skills. This work has enhanced the safety of both your members and the boaters you serve.

Marine Rescue N.S.W. now enters a new phase of growth and development, with a programme to continue your fleet modernisation, upgrade volunteer facilities, reinforce the marine radio network and recruit new members. This will not only build your life-saving operational capability, but also ensure your viability for the generations to come.

I can only thank each of you for your service. With your selfless commitment and tireless efforts, Marine Rescue N.S.W. can face the future with great confidence as it continues to build on the fine achievements of its first decade of volunteer service saving lives on the water.

Chasley
