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Quarterly Journal of Marine Rescue NSW

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by Lisa Madden

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From the Commissioner

Generous donations demonstrate public's appreciation of our members' work.



Commissioner,
Stacey Tannos ESM



Austral Propeller Co's Stephen Vincent donated \$2500 from his Hall of Fame award.



Rob McWilliams handed back his raffle prize with a generous donation.

This year's Sydney International Boat Show (SIBS) was a marvellous showcase for the state's boating industry – and also for the work of Marine Rescue NSW.

The value the community places on MRNSW, our members and the work we do was evident in the compliments and thanks our large contingent of volunteers received over the five days of the Show – and also has been at the heart of three acts of warm and very welcome generosity in recent weeks.

Our SIBS volunteers were kept busy providing safety information and advice, answering questions on board *Middle Harbour 30* on the marina, accepting donations and selling thousands of tickets in our great raffle.

Ten members were on hand at the official Boating Industry Association breakfast at the show when Stephen Vincent of Austral Propeller Co received the BIA Hall of Fame Award and announced he would donate his \$5000 prize to MRNSW and the Melanoma Institute of Australia. This kind gesture was much appreciated.

Along with a number of boating industry, maritime authority and marine safety representatives, I took part in a roundtable discussion at SIBS on ways to increase the number of boaters wearing lifejackets. Both NSW Police Force Marine Area Commander Detective Superintendent Mark Hutchings and I argued strongly that wearing a lifejacket should be made mandatory at all times.

At the close of the Show, the lucky winner of the first prize in the MRNSW raffle – a boat-motor-trailer package valued at \$8900 – was Mr Rob McWilliams. Before we could even tow his prize to his Sydney door, Mr McWilliams generously donated his prize back to MRNSW to raffle again to raise even more funds.

As an added bonus, he presented us with a donation of \$10,000, which will boost our fundraising appeal to supply life-saving automatic defibrillators on

board our rescue vessels.

Mr McWilliams, who does not own a boat, said he had been lucky since migrating to Australia from his native South Africa 24 years ago and wanted to do something for the community.

"I'm happy to donate to an organisation where the money will go straight to its proper use and doesn't get spent on administration," he said.

Mr McWilliams' visit came three days after Deputy Commissioner Heinz Mueller and I took delivery of another piece of water-borne generosity. Sydney couple Bruce Hogan and Tina Clifton have donated a \$33,000 5.8m 2002 Whitley Voyager to MRNSW (see story page 6).

On behalf of the Board and our members, I want to place on the record my thanks to Mr Hogan, Ms Clifton, Mr Vincent and Mr McWilliams. Their donations have not only benefitted our organisation financially but have also shown the value to our community of our members' effort and commitment.

In a similar recognition of our contribution to the state's emergency management arrangements, Police and Emergency Services Minister Mike Gallacher has appointed MRNSW to the State Emergency Management Committee. This is the first time a marine rescue service has been

SIBS marked the launch of our new fundraising initiative, with each unit being given a boat-motor-trailer package to raffle in coming months (see our cover and story page 3). I'm sure this will be an appealing prize that will attract strong support in local communities.

Our new donation boxes, modelled on our Steber and Kevlacat rescue vessels, were also unveiled at SIBS and are on their way to units, along with a kit of four new lightweight yoke-style lifejackets for each operational vessel and floating key rings that units can sell to boaters keen to avoid that heart-stopping moment of watching their keys sink to the seabed.

Members would recall that during National Volunteer Week in May I announced the MRNSW Volunteer Education Scholarship to help our members undertake professional development to assist them in their volunteering roles. We received many more applications than we could approve and I thank all the applicants for their willingness to undertake further studies.

Congratulations to the successful applicants: Gregory Atkinson (Jervis Bay), David Barker (Newcastle), Anthony Breen (Forster-Tuncurry), Geoffrey Hawes (Central Coast),

"The Minister has appointed MRNSW to the State Emergency Management Committee."

represented on this peak body.

While the wet and cold weather has meant quieter times on the water, this has been a busy period on land. The new Marine Rescue NSW constitution was adopted at the Extraordinary General Meeting on August 18.

We also have introduced a series of administrative reforms, including providing units with operating budgets to assist them with the cost of operating and managing their activities. This has provided an overall increase in funding over last year.

Darren Howes (Shoalhaven), Andrew Topp (Terrey Hills) and Shea Wicks (Central Coast).

I also would like to welcome a number of new advertisers to *Soundings* and to thank those who have continued to support the magazine and through this, our volunteers. This has enabled us to increase the size of the publication so we can bring you more news about the great work of our members.

Stacey Tannos ESM
Commissioner

Boats up for grabs in \$400,000 raffle bonanza

MRNSW units to boost coffers in new summer fundraising campaign.

Marine Rescue NSW has launched its largest ever fundraising campaign, with a \$400,000 bonanza of fishing boats to be won over summer.

MRNSW units along the coastline and on the Alpine Lakes will be raffling boat, motor and trailer packages valued at almost \$9000.

From the Northern Rivers south, our supporters and those keen to get on the water will be lining up for tickets to win an MR384 AnglaPro runabout, fitted with a 9.9 HP 4-stroke Suzuki outboard, on a Dunbier trailer.

With room for four people and all the tackle you'll need on board, the sturdy AnglaPro is ideal for a day's fishing on sheltered waters.

It's already been rated "fantastic" by the two young anglers, Bethany

and Ben, featured on our cover on a day's fishing trip with their dad, Tim.

At 3.84m, the first prize boat features a white-painted aluminium hull, two extra-large seats and a generous carpeted floor area.

It comes with a safety kit including two lifejackets, anchor and chain, torch, bailing kit, V sheet, air horn and oars and the A-frame trailer will be registered.

The summer raffle campaign kicked off at this year's Sydney International Boat Show, with Marine Rescue volunteers kept busy selling tickets to supporters keen to win a similar package featuring an AnglaPro Lite 374 boat.

Commissioner Stacey Tannos said the organisation's new fundraising effort would start in coming weeks, with the roll-out of boat-motor-trailers



Anglers Ben, Bethany and father Tim test out an AnglaPro runabout on a day's fishing trip.

to units starting in October.

"This is a major fundraising initiative to support our volunteers' work to assist the boating community," he said.

"A number of units regularly hold similar raffles and have a great track record of success, attracting a lot of support and

raising significant funds as people enter to win this popular prize.

"We're supplying our units with this terrific prize to help them maximise the funds they can raise.

"We'd encourage everyone in the community to support their local volunteers' raffle by making sure they're in it to win it."



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From the Chairman

MRNSW is gaining rewards for hard work and increased public profile.



Chairman,
James Glissan QC

As I write this brief report, Marine Rescue NSW has passed another milestone on its journey.

The Extraordinary General Meeting of August 18 has replaced the original constitution with a new document that enhances our capacity, our independence and our governance.

It brings with it new opportunities and new responsibilities and firmly establishes MRNSW's position as an emergency service.

A brief recapitulation of the short history of MRNSW reveals an enthusiasm for the organisation, of which I am truly proud.

The original constitution was always recognised to be a transitional document aimed at bringing together and reconciling the old and the new. We have passed beyond such needs and the new document is one for the continuation and growth of an already established and flourishing enterprise.

As the Commissioner notes in his column, (see page 2) the public profile of MRNSW continues to grow and our presence and public service is attracting positive responses across the board.

The gratifying and generous

return of the raffled prize by the winner at the Sydney International Boat Show is one example, along with the donation of a Whittley cruiser to MRNSW.

From the Board perspective, new responsibilities have included a review of our funding to units based on a realistic assessment of our income and resources.

This has meant a re-evaluation of the way in which funds are to be provided to units and will refocus attention on the important issue faced by all volunteer organisations of the need to actively pursue fundraising in the local community.

In so doing, we need to be astute to recognise the efforts of those in the units who commit to fundraising.

In that context, the dedicated efforts of Paul and Jacqueline Klausen in fundraising for the Shoalhaven unit were rewarded by their elevation to Life Membership of MRNSW. (See story page 6) It is not only on the water or in the radio room that great contributions to MRNSW are made.

A further exciting initiative is the supplementing of unit funding by the provision of a boat/trailer/motor package to all participating units

and the funding granted by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services for the provision of OH&S and training aids to crews.

On a sadder note, since the last issue of *Soundings* a number of members have "crossed the bar".

These include Unit Commander Fred Noble, who has been a stalwart supporter and was the oldest member of Kioloa, giving long and sterling service to his community and to MRNSW.

Neil McCartney, from the Port Macquarie unit, was one of the members of the original facilitation committee created to oversee the establishment of the new single marine rescue organisation and then served as a founding director of the new company.

An active volunteer on both the vessels and the executive of his unit, he had been a member of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association Marine Committee, as well as a member of the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association in Sydney.

Their commitment deserves special recognition. All our late members will be missed.

Good sailing
Jim Glissan

Grants a boon for Marine Rescue volunteers

NSW Government provides money for new training and safety gear.

NSW Police and Emergency Services Minister Michael Gallacher has provided Marine Rescue NSW with grants worth \$28,140 to provide new training equipment and safety gear for our volunteers.

Commissioner Stacey Tannos said the funding was for:

- UV polarised sunglasses for volunteers
- Six rescue mannequins
- Six training EPIRBs and
- Three radio direction finders

"We are very grateful to the Minister for these grants, which are welcome recognition of the hard work and commitment of the members of our 46 units," he said.

Commissioner Tannos said the polarised sunglasses would be supplied as part of the volunteers' standard uniform, as an important health and safety measure.

"Our volunteers, particularly our boat crews, spend a great

deal of time outdoors and the introduction of sunglasses as part of their personal safety equipment will help prevent potential damage to their eyes that can be caused by UV radiation," he said.

"This funding also will enable us to significantly enhance our specialised search and rescue training equipment, which will be of particular use in multi-agency regional search and

rescue exercises as well as regular unit training operations."

The rescue mannequins, fitted with EPIRBs and radio direction finders, are dropped into the water and grid search patterns set for search crews to locate and retrieve them.

A mannequin and EPIRB will be delivered to each region and a radio direction finder to each of the three training regions to supplement existing equipment.

Members vote for constitutional reform

Document irons out structural difficulties and presents a practical vision.

Members of Marine Rescue NSW have voted overwhelmingly in favour of a new company constitution.

The new constitution was adopted at an Extraordinary General Meeting held in Sydney on Saturday, August 18. A total of 772 members voted on the question of adopting a new constitution, with 660 in favour, 87 against, 17 invalid and eight abstaining.

Chairman of the Board of Directors Jim Glissan welcomed the members' agreement to the reform.

"This is an excellent result," he said.

Mr Glissan told the meeting that the new document had been carefully drafted to guide the company into the future.

He said while the organisation remained proud of its history, it

was time to move forward.

"This will take us forward for the next 50, if not 100, years," he said.

"We have, in the year since the last Annual General Meeting, had a significant improvement and elevation in the level of activity Marine Rescue has undertaken and our profile in the community has developed enormously.

"We have struggled with the constitution, which has presented practical, structural, organisational and even legal difficulties."

He said the original document had stitched together the "interests of those historic organisations that ... came together to form this organisation.

"It included things that needed to be in place for the organisation to be formed but now we are a fully functional, recognised organisation."



Returning Officer, Port Jackson Unit Commander David Hand, reads the result of the vote on the new constitution to the EGM.

Mr Glissan thanked the Constitutional Review Committee of Directors and senior members of MRNSW, who set the framework for the new constitution, and Allygroup, which drafted the new document.

He also thanked the Returning Officer, MR Port Jackson Unit Commander David Hand, and members of the Port Jackson unit for their assistance with this responsibility.

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ON THE RADAR

Things to look out for

Safer boaters legacy of couple's philanthropy

MRNSW takes delivery of a 2002 Whittley Voyager that can be used for licence tests.

A philanthropic Sydney couple is helping more people join the ever-growing ranks of boaters on our waters in safety.

Bruce Hogan and Tina Clifton recently made a remarkable donation to support Marine Rescue NSW's work with the boating community, handing over a striking powerboat to the organisation.

As wild winds whipped across Sydney Harbour on August 10, Commissioner Stacey Tannos and Deputy Commissioner Heinz Mueller took delivery of the 5.8m 2002 Whittley Voyager, worth more than \$30,000.

Mr Hogan and Ms Clifton were aware of the work of Marine Rescue through their time on the water but no longer used the Whittley.

They had thought to donate

the recreational vessel to a charity and were pleased it could go to an organisation that provided a service to the boating public.

Commissioner Tannos thanked Mr Hogan and Ms Clifton for their generous gift. He said the Whittley would be a welcome addition to Marine Rescue's ancillary fleet and educational services.

"The Whittley is a real bonus for us," he said. "We'll be able to put it to good use running practical boating licence tests for members of the public, complementing the theoretical licence courses we already run.

"The vessel cannot be used for operational purposes because it is not in 2C survey but using it for practical boating courses means we can help more people become safe and



Tina Clifton and Bruce Hogan wave a fond farewell to their Whittley Voyager, which they have generously donated to MRNSW.

responsible members of our boating community.

"It is rewarding to know members of the boating public hold Marine Rescue volunteers in such high regard that they are willing to

support our work with a donation on this scale," he said.

"In just three years, Marine Rescue has become widely recognised for its work to assist and protect the boating community."



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Shoalhaven pair given Life Membership

Two members of Marine Rescue Shoalhaven, Paul and Jacqueline Klausen, have been made Life Members of Marine Rescue NSW in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the organisation and the boating community.

MRNSW Chair Jim Glissan said the Board had awarded Mr and Mrs Klausen Life Membership to thank them for their ongoing fundraising and operational commitment.

"The Klausens are a most valuable asset to our organisation. We are fortunate to have members of such high calibre," Mr Glissan said.

From 2000 to 2009 Mr and Mrs Klausen organised and ran the Shoalhaven unit's annual raffle, raising a total of \$200,000.

Mrs Klausen has continued to raise more funds, including \$10,000 in one year alone, running the unit's weekly raffle at the Greenwell Point Hotel and Bowling Club since 2010.



Life Members Jacqueline and Paul Klausen.

"The financial health of our units is vital to our organisation's long-term sustainability and prosperity. Paul and Jackie can be rightly proud of their achievement," Mr Glissan said.

Mr Glissan said Mr Klausen's qualifications – a Commercial Coxswain's Certificate and Rescue Coxswain Certificate – and current studies for a Master V Certificate reflected his experience and skill on board the unit's rescue vessels.

"He has logged several thousand hours as duty skipper on rescues and training many of the unit's current competent crews and skippers."



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ON THE RADAR

Things to look out for

First National Medals for MRNSW members

Seven volunteers recently became the first members of Marine Rescue NSW to be presented with the National Medal.

Premier Barry O'Farrell, Police and Emergency Services Minister Mike Gallacher, Fair Trading Minister Anthony Roberts and Pittwater MP Rob Stokes attended the presentation ceremony at NSW Parliament House to congratulate the men, who have amassed a total of 135 years' service.

The National Medal is presented to acknowledge long service by members of recognised organisations who risk their lives to assist and protect the community. Official approval was granted late last year for MRNSW members to be awarded the medal.

Commissioner Stacey Tannos



Police and Emergency Services Minister Mike Gallacher congratulates Peter Woods.

said this was a welcome and fitting acknowledgment of members' work.

The first seven recipients were: Peter Woods, Broken Bay, 35 years; Michael Seale, Broken Bay, 25 years; Richard Wright, Batemans Bay, 15 years; Dean Scadding, Terrigal, 15 years; Hugo Stromhall, Central Coast, 15 years; Michael King, Central Coast, 15 years; Simon Denneen, Terrey Hills, 15 years.

OAM awarded to Unit Commander

Marine Rescue Nambucca Unit Commander Owen Rushton has been recognised for his voluntary work with a Medal of the Order of Australia in this year's Queen's Birthday honours list.

Commissioner Stacey Tannos congratulated Mr Rushton for his commitment to local marine and land rescue services, education and sport.

"This award acknowledges Mr Rushton's valuable contribution to community safety and wellbeing, youth and sport in the Nambucca and Macksville area of the Mid North Coast," he said.

Mr Rushton has been a member of the Nambucca rescue community for more than 20 years, both on the water and with the Volunteer



Owen Rushton OAM.

Rescue Association on land.

He has overseen the acquisition of two new rescue vessels, and most recently the completion of the unit's new premises on the water.

Mr Rushton's service to the community includes 27 years as a teacher and 12 years' participation in the organisation of the renowned Macksville Gift running race.

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Ron Calman

Unit Commander, Newcastle



An experienced water rescue volunteer, Ron Calman has earned Master 5 and MED 2 (Marine Engine Driver) certificates.

Retired policeman Ron Calman ROAM has been involved in volunteer water rescue for almost 50 years. The 67-year-old recently moved from Lake Macquarie to Newcastle to take over as Unit Commander.

■ **I've always wanted to help people in the community.** I was captain at the Toowoomb Bay Surf Life Saving Club on the Central Coast in 1965 and I volunteered at the Coast Guard from 1975 for two-and-a-half years. In 1990 I joined the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol until they amalgamated to become part of MRNSW.

■ **The biggest difference from when I started is the level of equipment available.** In the '70s we had limited finances and gear. We had to use our own boats to do rescues.

■ **The rescue I remember most is when a boat exploded at Pelican wharf and there were lots of children in the water.** The vessel was on fire and we helped get everyone out, towing the boat with a

grapple hook to a sand bank.

■ **A lot of people know me on the water.** They'll say you towed me in back in whenever, and sometimes I can't remember them – there have been that many rescues. But in the end I just like talking to people.

■ **The biggest challenge we face is getting new members to join.** The idea is to convince people we are one big family and then to keep people involved by making things interesting.

■ **The boating community in Newcastle is very good.** I am glad to be helping out here. They mostly log on and follow proper procedure. But the biggest problem for all of us is boaters who don't take the right equipment and don't wear lifejackets. That and alcohol: alcohol and water don't mix.

■ **There's a lot of sand movement at Lake Macquarie channel at Swansea Bridge.** I've pulled out countless yachts stuck there on the sand. They really need to dredge the channel properly and put in a retainer wall.



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PROUD TO SUPPORT MARINE RESCUE NEW SOUTH WALES

Volunteers charm Boat Show crowds

Members from up and down the coast raise nearly \$22,000.

Marine Rescue NSW volunteers turned out in force for this year's Sydney International Boat Show (SIBS), raising almost \$22,000 and promoting our services to a keen audience of boaters.

More than 150 volunteers gave their time to sell raffle tickets to launch our summer fundraising campaign, provide information at our Hall 5 stand, hand out inflatable life rings and keep watch on *Middle Harbour 30* on the marina.

Another MRNSW vessel, a Cobia now on duty with MR Port Kembla, was on show at the Haines Group stand inside Hall 4.

MRNSW's SIBS coordinator, Board Director Bob Wilson, thanked all the volunteers who took part.

"We had volunteers from as far north as Port Macquarie and as far

south as Narooma, including some who worked on all five days," Mr Wilson said.

"We could not have such a large presence at the show without our members' willing and enthusiastic participation."

The major prize in this year's raffle – a boat-motor-trailer package valued at \$8900 – attracted thousands of keen recreational boaters.

All funds raised at the Show will go towards our ongoing program to install life-saving defibrillators on board our fleet. This year's total takings were \$7000 up on last year.

The first prize in the raffle – an AnglaPro Lite 374 fishing boat, Suzuki 9.9hp 4 stroke outboard and Dunbier Nipper 13ft trailer – was won by Mr Rob McWilliams, who has generously donated the package



Alison Kelly-Ng from Marine Rescue Central Coast inspects PK 20, Port Kembla's new Cobia vessel, on display at the Haines Group stand at SIBS.

back to MRNSW to re-affle (see From the Commissioner, page 2).

Our other prize winners were:
2nd – Suzuki 6hp 4-stroke outboard valued at \$1,880, F de Wilde;
3rd – Family set of four Hutchwilco Inflatable lifejackets valued at \$516,

M Bradley;
4th – ACR Boating Grab Bag and SOLAS Strobe Light valued at \$228, R Thompson;
5th – *The Australian Boating Manual* by Dick Gandy valued at \$90, A Mozik.



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At the Sydney International Boat Show



Ready for the rush the early morning shift of volunteers set for the crowds to arrive at the Marine Rescue NSW stand at this year's Sydney International Boat Show.



A stream of enthusiastic visitors dropped by the MRNSW stand to tap into our volunteers' wealth of boating knowledge and learn more about our work on the water.



Welcome aboard sir ... Bill Keleher from Marine Rescue Middle Harbour greets visitors to MH 30, one of hundreds of boats that attracted huge crowds to the marina at SIBS.



Good luck to you ... our volunteers were kept busy selling tickets in the launch of our summer raffle bonanza at SIBS. MRNSW units along the coastline will be raffling similar fishing boats in coming months.



Commissioner Stacey Tannos and Board Director Bob Wilson (centre) drop by for a word with members who volunteered their time to provide safety advice and information at the MRNSW stand.

Ballina to showcase latest on-the-water gear

Boat show and fishing tournament will attract many on the long weekend.

Thousands of locals and tourists on the North Coast are expected to flock through the gates of the 2012 Ballina Boat and Leisure Show on the Labour Day long weekend.

The third annual event, being staged by Marine Rescue Ballina, is a showcase of what's new in leisure craft, trailers, fishing, bait and tackle, safety gear, lifestyle products, campers and 4WD accessories.

Visitors will be able to take in everything from houseboats and kayaks to outboard motors, trolleys and cradles, while those interested in pursuing marine studies can gain firsthand advice from Ballina TAFE.

One of the highlights of the weekend will be the North Coast Fishing Bonanza, with more than \$75,000 in prizes up for grabs. Staged by Gamakatsu and Evinrude

Etec in conjunction with the boat show, the competition is one of Australia's largest catch and photograph fishing tournaments.

Competitors in adult, cadet and junior divisions will be able to fish for a range of species in any North Coast river system. Prizes will be on offer for snapper, pearl perch, mulloway, kingfish/cobia, sambo/AJ, whiting, bream, flathead, bass and most meritorious. On Sunday, Surf Life Saving will stage the Ballina Island Paddle Challenge.

Along with exhibitors' wares and demonstrations over the two days, visitors will be able to grab a bite to eat from a range of vendors, including the East Ballina Lions Club.

Ballina Unit Commander Norm Lannoy said the event was the unit's key annual fundraiser.



The 2012 Ballina Boat and Leisure Show, to be held at Ballina Seagulls Rugby League Club, is expected to bring in more than 2000 people and help raise money for the local unit.

"We had about 2000 people last year in bad weather so we're expecting more this year," he said.

The Show will be held at the Ballina Seagulls Rugby League Club, Kingsford Smith Park, Bentinck

Street, from 9am to 5pm on Saturday, September 29 and 9am to 4pm on Sunday, September 30. Entry is by gold coin donation.

Visit vmrballina.com/boatshow.asp and fishingcomps.com.au/ncfb/.

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Alex's medal challenge

Student volunteers for Crowdy Harrington.

Marine Rescue Crowdy Harrington is playing a key role in helping a Taree high school student qualify for her bronze Duke of Edinburgh medal.

Volunteering is an integral part of the Duke of Edinburgh program and St Clare's High School student Alex Minett is spending an hour a week with the Crowdy members over three months.

Alex has tried her hand at a range of duties at the base. On her first weekend she took in a First Aid course, passing with flying colours.

She has practised taking messages on the radio and has also tried her hand on our boat simulator with excellent results.

At a recent combined Rotary Clubs event in Taree, Pat Carberry and the late Jack Anderson were presented with Volunteer Service Awards in recognition of their



Duke of Edinburgh participant Alex Minett at work with radio duty officer and Unit Commander John Fitzgerald in the Crowdy-Harrington radio room.

service to the community through their involvement with Marine Rescue Crowdy Harrington.

Pat has 12 years' service, being a founder of MR Crowdy-Harrington, and Jack had just received his 10 year service medal. Sadly, Jack passed away soon after (see In Memoriam, page 44).

Kevin Nicholls

Lani II rescues kayaker

Paddler saved by Forster-Tuncurry unit.

With the weather not being kind to the boating community in recent months, Marine Rescue Forster-Tuncurry has had a quiet time on the water, called to assist in only three incidents.

The crew of *Lani II* (Forster 10) completed a first in July when members helped a Hobie kayak to return into Cape Hawke Harbour after the paddler under-estimated the speed of the run-out tide.

There have been reports of similar events further up the coast where people have either not taken the tides into account or have been over-confident in their abilities and forced to call for help when they were unable to return to land.

Unit members have re-elected Unit Commander Dennis Travers to his post, with Peter Page elected as new Deputy Commander.

Thanks are extended to outgoing



Former Mid North Coast Regional Coordinator Linda Jones presents Forster-Tuncurry member Steve Evans with his 10-year Long Service Medal.

Deputy, Bill Hansen, who moved to the Central Coast after 10 years' service.

The fundraising Breakwall Belles have had some outstanding months at the markets and the Forster-Tuncurry Crazy Day. Three members were awarded 10-year Long Service Medals and five received five-year badges.

Dennis Travers

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Champagne ready for commissioning

Woolgoolga crews take to high-tech rescue vessel with great gusto.

Marine Rescue Woolgoolga's new \$337,000 rescue vessel, *WO 30*, will be commissioned early next month.

As well as their new boat, members have also welcomed \$5000 in club grants from six local clubs to assist with refurbishing the unit's kitchen.

The clubs are: Club Coffs, Park Beach Bowling Club, Woolgoolga RSL Club, Sawtell RSL, Coffs Harbour Ex-Services Club and Woolgoolga Bowling Club.

Unit members have been enthusiastically training on the 9m boat, which was manufactured by Britton Marine. It has an Ellis alloy hull, fibreglass cabin and solid buoyant collars.

A couple of hitches delayed the vessel's final delivery to the unit. Despite extensive modifications

to our boat shed to accommodate the new vessel, once she arrived we found further renovations were needed due to the size of the cabin.

While this work was carried out, *WO 30* headed south to the Coffs Harbour marina for safe keeping.

Adverse weather conditions then settled in over the area. By the time the crew was able to turn the boat north to its new base again, unusually high tides had eroded the bottom of our boat ramp.

With the assistance of a local backhoe operator, we were able to welcome the vessel home and are continuing to work with council to seek a solution to the ramp erosion.

Continuing poor weather has kept most of the area's fishermen on shore, so we have not yet been called to an assist or rescue to put the vessel through its paces but it



The 9m *WO 30* has an Ellis alloy hull, fibreglass cabin and solid buoyant collars.

won't be too long before *WO 30* is called into action to assist the local boating community.

In the meantime, the crew has been training on the new radar and navigation equipment, as well as the new radios and electrical systems that were not available on the

previous Woolgoolga vessel.

Members are working hard to achieve their next rating under the new Marine Rescue training package, including new crew members, coxswains and radio operators.

John Murray



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Camden Haven's new management team (from left) Peter Wheeler-Smith, Ray Paton, Michael Lill, Ken Clancy, Alan Malcolm, Gordon Gray and Ken Rutledge. Mick Brownlow was absent.

Camden Haven team

Leader stands down after 12 years.

A new leadership team is in place at Marine Rescue Camden Haven.

George Tedds, who had served as Unit Commander since 2000 and Deputy Commander for the previous six years, stood down at the July elections. George, 91, had provided strong leadership and leaves the unit well positioned.

Ken Clancy is the new Unit Commander, with acting Deputy Ken Rutledge formally elected.

The new management team

also includes Alan Malcolm, Peter Wheeler-Smith, Gordon Gray, Michael Lill, Ray Paton and Mick Brownlow.

Our support team is: Steve Barnard, Charlie Snudden, Peter Cameron, Alan Gendle, Keith Charman, Austin Grice, Ray Downes, Isabel Malcolm, Ken Smith, Jackie Charman, Robyn Clancy, Gary Chapman, Robert Sargent and Brian Burton.

Ken Clancy

Sloop in MAYDAY

Police praise MRNSW watchkeeper.



At the end of the line ... *Coffs 20* tows a troubled vessel back to harbour through a heavy swell.

Recent wild and windy weather has limited boating activity in the Coffs Harbour area, however, our watchkeepers and crews have been called upon to support and assist vessels in difficulties on several occasions over the past three months.

One of these involved a fishing trawler in difficulty 12 nm offshore in a heavy swell. *Coffs 20* was requested to tow the vessel back to the harbour. During the tow back, there were times when the vessel was out of sight except for the top of its mast.

The skipper of the trawler admitted he had initially doubted *Coffs 20* was capable of towing him home but he was impressed and later commented the tow was the fastest his boat had ever gone.

Soon after midnight on Friday, July 20, our duty watchkeeper, Allan Clenton, received a MAYDAY call from a 28ft sloop 26 nm off Coffs Harbour.

The vessel had been dismasted and the crew was unable to clear the rigging. A gale warning was

current and communication had been reduced to a mobile phone.

Due to the wild weather, rough sea and distance from shore, the Coffs Harbour Police Marine Area Command undertook to go to the vessel's aid. Police launch *Fearless* was quickly retrieved from the slipway and returned to duty.

During this time, the unit watchkeeper was kept busy relaying the stricken vessel's position and other information, including details of personnel on board, emergency preparations and mobile phone numbers, to Marine Area Command.

At 4.50am, the crew of *Fearless* advised they had the vessel in tow 16 nm off shore. They arrived back at the harbour soon after 10am. *Coffs 20* was requested to assist the vessel into the marina.

Our overnight watchkeeper was subsequently complimented by Marine Area Command for his very professional handling of a long and quite difficult session.

Alison Bowling

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Triple celebration for The Entrance volunteers

Members welcome new boat, jetty and extensions to base.

Volunteers from The Entrance unit marked the commissioning of our new \$120,000 rescue vessel and opening of our new \$30,000 jetty and unit extensions in a triple celebration last month.

MRNSW Deputy Commissioner Heinz Mueller commissioned *The Entrance 20 (TE 20)*.

The Entrance MP Chris Spence, NSW Police Detective Inspector David Waddell, Wyong Councillor Lisa Matthew and representatives of council, Roads and Maritime Services, Fisheries and Crown Lands also attended the event.

A highly-maneuvrable 6.25m Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat built by Cobia Boats, *TE 20* is powered by twin 90 HP 4-stroke Suzuki outboard motors.

Our crews have been training on

TE 20, which they have already put to good use, assisting a number of boaters and towing a seaplane forced to ditch in Tuggerah Lakes in July to safety at the Picnic Point boat ramp.

Unit Commander Stewart Masters said the boat's greatest benefits were its manoeuvrability and versatility.

"She also provides our crews with more space to operate and new, more advanced electronic equipment, including radar, GPS plotter and sounder, Automatic Identification System and VHF, DCN and 27 MHz radios, to assist in search and rescue operations," he said.

The \$30,000 project to build the new jetty and extend our base to give us additional training and storage space was funded through a \$20,000 State Government grant and another \$10,000 raised by members.



The Entrance crew aboard *TE 20*, Skipper Colin Lewis, Tony Younglove and Dave Smith, were quickly on the scene to rescue this young fellow from his upturned tinnie.

We have converted our floating dry dock, which was donated by the local Freemasons, to accommodate the single-hull Cobia and moved it alongside the jetty.

Deputy Commissioner Mueller

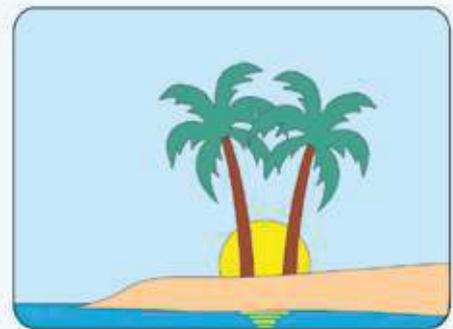
thanked The Entrance volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the organisation and the boating public, congratulating all involved on the success of our building project.

Denis O'Mara

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Radio technology proves its worth in an emergency

Racing yacht found quickly in early morning darkness.

Two rescues by Marine Rescue Port Stephens have emphasised the value of Radio Direction Finding (RDF) technology in a marine Search and Rescue (SAR) operation.

Rescue crews use RDF – which tracks and triangulates the direction of a transmission from a marine radio – to help pinpoint the location of a vessel in distress.

On an early winter morning, crews were training when the radio base received a call for help from a 10m sloop disabled off the coast after losing electrics, motor power and steerage and operating under jury rig with limited manoeuvrability.

Without power, the skipper had no accurate GPS position and had to call by mobile instead of radio, meaning the rescue crews had no latitude/longitude data or RDF to guide them,

relying instead on his advice that he was eight miles east of Port Stephens.

Both *PS 30* and *PS 40* proceeded along the stated heading. After two hours, *PS 30* returned to base, low on fuel. *PS 40* continued the search in ever-increasing patterns and after three hours sighted a hand-held flare ignited aboard the stricken vessel.

The vessel was ultimately taken under tow 12.5 nm almost directly ESE of the Port Stephens limit; a long way off “eight miles due east”.

By contrast, a more elegant search ensued during a rescue at 3am on July 29. A 13m sloop in the Sydney-Gold Coast yacht race became disabled when the spinnaker tangled around the mast and rigging and one rope got caught in the propeller.

Without motor or sail power, the vessel was at the mercy of a brisk



Safe at last ... Port Stephens crew member Ian Drummond, aboard *PS 40 (Danial Thain)*, prepares to take a stricken yacht under tow after a three hour search.

breeze and strong current.

The skipper called for assistance to the radio base, giving his GPS position over VHF radio. Duty Watch Officer Marian Chappel noted the RDF and called the Operations Officer

and boat crew to action.

Armed with the RDF data, *PS 40* located the vessel 4 nm off the Port Stephens entrance. (Yacht crew thanks rescuers, page 44.)

Laurie Nolan

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Get ready for summer on the water

Keen boaters up and down the coast are shrugging off their winter jackets and pulling the covers off their cabin cruisers, runabouts and tinnies.

But don't let enthusiasm get in the way of good boating practice. Most boat problems rear their ugly head at the start of the season.

Remember what a disappointing boating season it was last year? Some boats may not have been used in up to two years and you simply cannot expect them to be at the same standard of readiness as when they were last used.

It can take as little as three months for fuel to become contaminated so you can be reasonably certain that any old petrol in your tank will definitely be off. Electrical connections can corrode and there's every chance the battery is flat.

Any number of minor maintenance problems can lead to major problems at sea, increasing the risk of danger and spoiling what should have been an enjoyable day out.

Remember that the skipper is responsible for the upkeep of the vessel and the safety of all on board.

MRNSW crews answer hundreds of distress calls over the peak boating season from boaters stranded by engine breakdowns, battery failure and fuel problems.

Statistics from our units continue to show that mechanical problems are the single most frequent cause of calls for help on the water. In the past three years, about 50 per cent of rescue calls were the result of a mechanical breakdown, often caused by contaminated fuel.

The next most common reason for breakdowns is electrical or flat battery problems, which cause an average of 10 per cent of rescue calls. The perennial problem of running out of fuel averages out at over 6 per cent.

This means that two-thirds of all breakdowns we see are caused by problems that could have been avoided through regular



Thorough boat maintenance and preparation will help prevent an unwelcome breakdown.

maintenance and proper preparation.

The Entrance's Denis O'Mara said the unit's members performed an average of three to four rescues a weekend during the warmer months.

"The boaties who use Tuggerah and Budgewoi Lakes are almost exclusively trailer boaters with outboard motors," he said.

"Those who don't replace last season's petrol will have problems. We also have boaties who come from the other side of the lake with only a little fuel and wonder why they run out and can't get back home.

"I would say the majority of the rescues we deal with are due to fuel – either old or insufficient supplies.

"Most of our other rescues are due to mechanical problems and launching the boat without a basic check. This generally occurs in the first few weeks of spring when the conditions improve after winter and everyone is in a hurry to get back on the water."

MRNSW Fleet Project Officer and Botany Bay member Frank Robards said a pre-season check-up could help avoid these kinds of problems.

"Boaties should make sure they take the time now to carry out the

routine maintenance that will see them heading out safely and confidently over summer," he said.

"If you're a bit handy and keen to take on the work involved in de-winterising your boat, it's probably best to have the manual to hand as a reference point.

"Start with the engine, changing the oil and oil filter. If the oil is milky that means water has found its way in and that means immediate attention is needed.

"Your tank should be emptied and refilled with fresh new fuel. The gear oil should also be changed. Flush the cooling system and check all the fuel lines and the battery.

"Test the electronics, including the radio, which will be one of your most important pieces of safety gear should you find yourself in strife.

"Most importantly, check all your safety equipment. Are your lifejackets due for servicing? Check your flares and EPIRBS if you're carrying them and replace your torch batteries. This gear could save your life."

Trailers are often overlooked. How many times have you seen someone with a boat on a trailer behind them

pulled over to the side of the road with something obviously wrong?

It's usually a wheel bearing and it's no wonder they're a constant source of grief. They're in and out of the water (usually salt), followed by long periods just parked in the front yard or on the road, then in and out of the water again when the weather warms up.

If you don't have the time to do this work for yourself, you can always call in the professionals.

The Boating Industry Association of NSW 50 Point Safety Check means your boat is serviced by a qualified member of the Marine Industry Mechanical Repairers Association.

The 50 Point Safety Check, suitable for single engine trailer boats less than 8m long, is offered at a recommended price of \$99 by more than 40 authorised providers along the coastline, including three mobile services in Sydney, the Central Coast and Illawarra.

As an added incentive, if you have a 50 Point check carried out by a qualified provider by October 31, you can be in the running to win a Hobie Kona Kayak valued at more than \$1500. Visit 50pointcheck.com.au/.



Ethanol fuel for marine engines?

The great weight of evidence says NO.

Soundings has had a long look at information available about ethanol fuel from the Biofuels Association of Australia, NSW Roads and Maritime, the BIA, Mercury Marine, Suzuki Marine and Hunts Marine.

While it is often claimed modern brands of marine engines sold in Australia are designed to operate on E10, this is qualified by warnings of circumstances in which ethanol petrol causes problems for boat owners who do not use their boats on a daily basis:

- Engines built before the use of ethanol for environmental reasons over the past decade have minimal safeguards from the damage alcohol fuels will cause.
- Boaters often store fuel in tanks longer than recommended for E10 (40 days maximum, less in hot humid conditions).

- Cars, unlike boats, usually have their fuel replaced every week or two, which prevents water contamination or phase separation.
- Boat engines obviously work in water and ethanol is hygroscopic, meaning it absorbs moisture from the air, which can lead to storage problems.

When fuel sits in a tank for long periods, phase separation occurs, meaning the ethanol separates from the petrol, forming two distinct layers. The petrol floats at the top of the tank and the ethanol, with its absorbed water, sinks to the bottom, from where the engine usually draws its fuel.

This leads to inevitable motor stoppage. As the separated fuels cannot be remixed, the only way to resolve the problem is to completely empty the tank.



MRNSW vessels power to the rescue using ethanol-free unleaded petrol. Photo: Waide Maguire, Central Coast Express Advocate

The advice of Roads and Maritime Services is that biofuels are perfectly safe to use in road vehicles designed to be compatible but they create some significant issues for boat owners.

MRNSW takes the advice of the manufacturers of the engines we use. Even with frequent use of our vessels, unleaded petrol of 91 octane and above without ethanol is our fuel of choice.

For further reading, visit:

- maritime.nsw.gov.au/rec_boating/biofuels.html
- biofuels.nsw.gov.au
- mercurymarine.com
- huntsmarine.com.au
- clubmarine.com.au/internet/clubmarine.nsf/docs/MG24-3+Technical
- suzukimarine.com.au/ (download 2012 brochure)

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Conditions apply. The 50-Point Safety Check is suitable for trailer boats under 8 metres long. The 50-Point safety check is not a pink slip or requirement of vessel registration. All observations, assessments and recommendations relate specifically to the time of inspection. The 50-Point Safety check is a product of the Boating Industry Association of NSW Ltd and carried out by authorised members of the Marine Industry Mechanical Repairs Association. \$50.00 is received via a discount on the renewal of your Club Marine Insurance Policy. The discount can be redeemed within 12 months of the date of your 50-Point Safety Check inspection. Visit www.50pointcheck.com.au for a full list of conditions that relate to this product.



Expert advice from the workshop floor

Repairers shed light on problems caused by lack of boat maintenance.

Several experts in boating maintenance have spoken to *Soundings* about essential boat preparation, direct from the workshops where the results of poor maintenance invariably have to be repaired.

Ian Coops, Service Manager of Hunts Marine Sydney, Greg Linsell, of Endeavour Marine Marmong Point and Shannon Stocks of Shannon Outboard Service at Hornsby are all partners in the Boating Industry Association 50 Point Safety Check program.

All have seen the results of little or no maintenance and fuel contamination. We asked about the usual problems they saw in their workshops.

Ian Coops said: "By far the most frequent repair work we have to do is mechanical or fuel related and it's invariably caused by lack of maintenance. Routine service will prevent or pick up problems before they stop your motor or your trailer."

Shannon Stocks agreed, rating his top four avoidable problems as: bad fuel, water pump impellers, water in fuel and seized steering cables.

"Bad fuel and water in fuel are separate but sometimes concurrent problems," he said.

"Bad fuel is the result of fuel sitting in the tank for too long. Anything longer than three months is a problem ready to happen. Fuel components separate, the fuel loses its ability to combust and motors won't start, or worse, they will start and then stop later, usually at the worst possible time.

"Water in fuel is mostly caused by variations in temperature over long periods. This causes expansion and contraction of the fuel tank. Water condensation then occurs and it doesn't take much water, just a few drops, to stop your engine and prevent it from starting again. Serious damage can be caused by water in

fuel. (See photo middle right).

"Cleaning out old fuel before the start of a new boating season and regular servicing and replacement of the fuel filter will help keep your fuel clean and dependable.

"Fuel conditioners will help extend the life of your fuel. With fuel conditioning you can expect to double its life to around six months but that's not enough to last from one boating season to the next."

Endeavour Marine's Greg Linsell is a strong advocate of proper battery maintenance.

"So much on a boat these days depends on reliable electrical power," he said.

"Power to start your motor, power to run your electronic fish finders and chart plotters, power to run your navigation lights, power to run your bait tanks, power to run your bilge pumps, power to run your marine radio and your entertainment radio.

"The only way I know to depend on your current battery is to have it charged and checked before you start boating again after a long period since you last launched.

"As far as fuel goes, it's not hard to tell if it has gone off. It has a distinctive odour that just is not like the smell of fresh petrol. If your petrol doesn't smell like petrol, chances are it's off.

"I'm also a great believer in making sure the steering cable is fully operational. Lack of use in the off season can cause them to seize up. All boats need greater attention paid to service and maintenance, especially trailer boats with outboard engines or stern drives."

Boats aren't used the same way as cars, which are generally on the road every day or weekend all year round.

If you're a real boating enthusiast you might use your boat once a week in the season or every two or four weeks if good boating weather



Shannon Stocks says bad fuel and water in fuel are common problems.



Water contamination of fuel can have disastrous effects on engines.



Trailer wheels and wheel bearings are essential maintenance items.

doesn't match your free time. But the vast majority of boaters don't use their boats as much as they'd like.

After time off the water your boat may start as expected when you next launch it – but your motor is at risk of cutting out some time

after you've headed off towards your chosen destination. It's bad enough to suffer engine failure in a harbour or bay but if you're any distance offshore, inconvenience can quickly turn into a dangerous situation.



Boat maintenance & safety checklist

Tick off these essentials and make your next outing trouble-free.

Before you head out on your boat this summer, go through the 50 Point maintenance and safety checklist. Be honest with yourself: can you be confident that you can depend on every item to do its job or does it need to be repaired or replaced? Don't risk it: fix it.

BOAT

- Steering system
- Battery and hold-downs
- Fuel tank and restraints
- Fuel lines and filter
- Instruments/dash lighting
- Navigation lights
- Wiring and fuses
- Windscreen/wipers
- Mooring ropes/lines
- Sea cocks and valves

- Bilge pumps and float-switch operation (a bilge pump is required safety equipment for vessels with covered bilges)

TRAILER

- Wheels and wheel bearings
- Winch, cable and hook
- Lights
- Coupling
- Trailer adjustments
- Safety chain
- Trailer general condition
- Trailer registration

MOTOR

- Engine
- Gearbox operation
- Gear oil condition

- Drive oil remote bottle level
- Engine oil
- Power trim oil
- Remote controls operation
- Electrical harness
- Battery cables, terminals and switches
- Belts
- Charging system
- Starting mechanism
- Trim/tilt operation
- Propeller
- Trim tab/anodes
- Attaching bolts/thumb screws
- Closed cooling system (level/fluid condition)
- Engine mounts
- Battery (electrolyte)

- Fuel filters
- Air filters and flame arrestors
- Engine cooling condition

FUEL

- Visual inspection and ethanol test

SAFETY

(enclosed waters standard)

- Life jackets (condition and number)
- Anchor/chain/rope
- Oars and paddles
- Fire extinguisher
- Sound signal (horn/bell/whistle)
- Waterproof torch
- Bailer bucket
- Safety label



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Other boats launched recently include a Naiad 10m for NSW Maritime, based at Port Kembla. Victorian Police recently took delivery of their Naiad 10m, which is on a heavy duty road trailer designed by YWE.

Currently we are constructing three 9.5m Naiads for NSW Water Police. These boats, which are very similar to the Marine Rescue 9.5m Naiads, will each be deployed around the greater Sydney area.

Internationally, deliveries of the Naiad 7.9m diesel jets continue to the US Coast Guard. These boats launch from the stern ramp of the new 153-foot Sentinel class cutters. And in New Zealand, Naiad have recently completed their 60th boat built for Coastguard New Zealand - this one a 9.5m for the Hibiscus unit.



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Banking on safety

Commonwealth branch donates \$500.



Try this on for size ... the Commonwealth Bank's Kerri Coburn and Donna Williams join MR Lake Macquarie UC John Hatton, Joan Hatton and Dave Keegan for a demonstration of the new crew life jackets funded by the Swansea branch.

As part of the Commonwealth Bank's centenary celebrations, its branches have been making donations to key local charities.

Swansea branch manager Kerri Coburn recently presented members of Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie with \$500 towards the cost of new inflatable life jackets to help ensure the safety of its boat crew members.

Unit Commander John Hatton said the volunteers were grateful for the bank's support for their work in assisting and protecting the local boating community.

"These summer-weight life jackets will ensure our crews do not get overheated while out on the water assisting our boating friends," he said.

"Of course, our policy is that we all wear our life jackets whenever we are on board a vessel but we always take every opportunity to encourage boaters to wear their jackets at all times when they are on the water as well.

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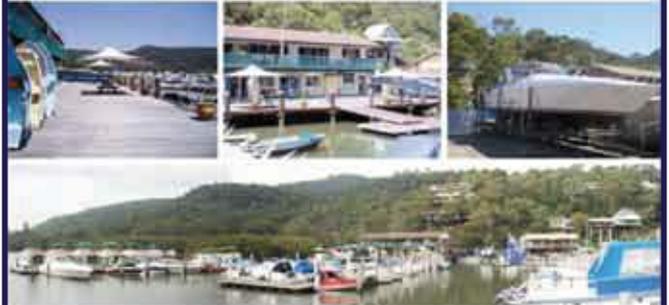


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Record haul for Newcastle crew

Rescue vessel muscles up for big showdown with tug boat.

Marine Rescue crews have taken some sizeable boats under tow in their time but Newcastle members have set a new record.

The volunteers put their skill and *Newcastle 20's* horsepower to the test in their latest challenge – towing a 90-tonne tug boat, worth \$3 million, across Newcastle Harbour.

It followed the unit's deft touch in helping an imported 1956 vintage Grumman Albatross seaplane take off for a new career in the Broome tourism industry.

Unit Commander Ron Calman said the unit had towed the tug, *Wattle*, from the Western Basin of the Harbour to the Newcastle Yacht Club for fuelling before it headed to Sydney.

With UC Calman at the helm, the crew on the Broadbill *Newcastle 20*



Easy does it ... the crew of *Newcastle 20* proves up to the challenge of towing a 90-tonne tug across the harbour. Photo: Richard Connor, Newcastle Yacht Club.

was Bill Johnston, Sven Johnson and Gordon Green.

"The members of the Newcastle crew demonstrated their ability and professional seamanship in towing, rafting, docking and securing this

large vessel," UC Calman said.

"It shows regular training pays off.

"The *Wattle*, which will be operating on Sydney Harbour for Defence Marine Services, was built at the Damen Shipyards in Changde in

the north of Hunan Province in China.

"The 16.56m Damen Stan Tug 1606 can travel at 10 to 15 knots, with two 1350mm Van Der Giessen Optima nozzles. It can pull 15 tonnes ahead on the bollard."



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Rocky rescue earns accolades from police

Central Coast skippers' expertise ensures stranded man is retrieved safely.

Friday the thirteenth eventually turned out to be lucky for an elderly man rescued from a rocky outcrop on the Central Coast.

The missing man was found on rocks near Iron Ladder Beach on July 13 but could not be rescued by land, resulting in a joint operation by Marine Area Command police from Brisbane Water and Marine Rescue Central Coast.

With darkness approaching, skippers Ken Sharp and Ted Leeson on board *Central Coast 20* rendezvoused with the police RHIB. Given his local knowledge, Ken was asked to steer the police vessel close to the rocks, where the man

Point Clare base mean Central Coast crews are now assured of being on the water within minutes. Siltation around the jetty at low tide had sometimes prevented the unit's boat lifts from being lowered far enough into the water to launch rescue vessels.

The unit used a \$45,500 NSW Community Building Partnership Program grant to extend the jetty, install new support piles, move the boat lifts to deeper waters and build access walkways.

The work was carried out by Greg Votono and crew from Coastwide Jetty Repairs, with Peter Camilleri of Petech Pty Ltd installing new power and lighting.



Central Coast members (from left) Roger Palmer, Shea Wicks, John Donnellan, Geoff Dark and immediate past UC Ian Gallard look on as Gosford MP Chris Holstein officially opens the unit's jetty extension.

The police officers praised the professionalism and helmsmanship of the MRNSW crew.

was retrieved unscathed.

The police officers praised the professionalism and helmsmanship of the MRNSW crew, with joint training exercises now being planned.

Major works to the jetty at their

Then Unit Commander Ian Gallard said the unit was grateful for the support of both men, along with Gosford MP Chris Holstein and the NSW Government.

"The grant has enabled us to once

again be a reliable 24-hour marine rescue service – a volunteer service that we have provided for the local boating community for more than 40 years," he said.

Central Coast has since seen a changing of the guard, with UC Gallard and Deputy Tony Long not standing for re-election after their two-year terms. Former UC Pat Fayers and Gordon Kimpton were

elected as their replacements.

During his successful term in office, Mr Gallard oversaw infrastructure improvements including radio and antenna system upgrades at the unit's Terrigal Haven base, new computer systems at Point Clare, Automatic Identification Systems installed on the vessels and a new engine and gearbox fitted to revitalise *CC 20*.

Shea Wicks and Ron Cole

Terrigal on the lookout for new members

Unit continues to punch above its weight as Commander is returned to leadership.

Members of Marine Rescue Terrigal re-elected Unit Commander Deane Scadding to the leadership at our Annual General Meeting, hosted by unit Patron, Minister for Resources, Energy and the Central Coast and Terrigal MP, Chris Hartcher.

Harry Sims was elected Deputy Unit Commander at the July meeting, taking over the role from Jon Davies.

The unit office bearers are Detlev Gross (OH&S), Lukas Ravell (IT), Cameron Sloey (Training), Ces Lawicki (Grants), Matt Small (Inflatable Rescue Boat) and John Pracy (Administration and Radio).

Although one of the smaller

Marine Rescue units in the Central Coast region, MR Terrigal remains committed to providing an essential service to the community and preserving the safety of life in a marine environment.

Our size does not restrict us in our essential duties of risk response in the area stretching about 20 nm (37km) from Box Head in the south to Norah Head in the north and 30 nm (55.5 km) seawards – about 1110 sq km of sea surface.

A larger number of members would, however, help boost our fundraising activities within the community, which mainly entail selling seafood tray raffle



Marine Rescue Terrigal patron, Central Coast Minister and Terrigal MP Chris Hartcher, with volunteers at the unit AGM. UC Deane Scadding is on the far right of the front row and Deputy Harry Sims on the far left.

tickets at the Terrigal Hotel.

New members are always welcome and can contact the unit

via the MRNSW website or on 4384 3606.

Detlev Gross

Refurbished vessel set for Sydney summer

Port Jackson Sailfish boosted with new motors and electronics.

Marine Rescue Port Jackson's Sailfish catamaran is back on Sydney Harbour with more powerful motors, upgraded electronics, a fresh paint job and a new name following an \$80,000 refurbishment.

The refit of *Port Jackson 22* was long overdue as we were struggling to get 20 knots out of the boat, the radar and sonar had failed

weather setting in over Sydney just as the painters started preparing the boat for painting, she ended up being off the water for 47 days, more than twice the anticipated time frame for the refurbishment.

During this time our 7.8m Broadbill catamaran, *PJ 21*, stood guard over the inner harbour and Parramatta River.

“The boat has been re-named *Port Jackson 20* and upgraded with 175Hp Suzuki motors.”

and it was not in correct Marine Rescue NSW livery.

The 7.9 m vessel has been re-named *Port Jackson 20*, ahead of the delivery of our new 8m Kevlcat, *Port Jackson 30*, for the peak boating season.

With extremely wet and cold

The vessel has been upgraded with new 175Hp Suzuki motors and new electronics, including a Raymarine E127 Hybrid Touch chartplotter, 24-inch high definition Radome, A class Automatic Identification System, ICOM VHF radios, a loud hailer system and a



Back on watch on Sydney Harbour following an \$80,000 refit ... Port Jackson's refurbished Sailfish catamaran.

rear camera to observe vessels under tow (day and night) via the chartplotter.

I would like to thank everyone who helped out during the process of the refit, especially the project

manager John Boyle.

The refurbishment has brought this Port Jackson vessel up to the current Marine Rescue vessel standards.

David Hand

Rough ocean rescue tests Cottage Point crew

Skipper praises teenage team members' professionalism.

A young crew from Marine Rescue Cottage Point battled strong winds and rough conditions to rescue a boater whose 36ft vessel was wallowing heavily in the ocean off McMasters Beach on the first day of spring.

Rescue vessel skipper David White praised the professionalism and safety focus of crew members, LC (Leading Crew) Luke Andrews and youthful colleagues Luke Hogarth, 17, and Jackson Barry, 16, throughout the testing five-hour operation.

“The experience they gained from this task has advanced their skills and further proves the importance of continuous training drills,” he said.

The Cottage Point crew was carrying out navigation drills on *Cottage Point 20 (CP 20)* on Broken Bay when the NSW Police Force Marine Area Command tasked them at 2.15pm to assist the stricken vessel.

The Steber 36 was suffering engine troubles 12 nm away. With a passage covering 7nm of open ocean to the north-east of Lion Island, *CP 20* made relatively quick time through the large south-east swell and winds of up to 25 knots, arriving on the scene about 3.15pm.

Although the mountainous seas were a challenge for passing a towing line, Luke Andrews demonstrated his skill by reaching the Steber with his first throw and the line was quickly secured.

The challenging tow south was undertaken 1.5nm seawards for safety to avoid the bounceback effect of the seas from the rocky shoreline and clear the hazardous east and west reefs. Seas of up to 4m limited safe passage speed to only 4-5 knots, making for a slow and uncomfortable trip.

After clearing Box Head, the vessels set their course towards the



Big following seas of up to 4m created demanding tow conditions for *Cottage Point 20* and limited safe passage speed to only 4-5 knots.

entry channel to Brisbane Water. With the big seas now astern of the tow, close attention was needed to ensure the vessel did not yaw or overstretch the towing line as it raced down the following waves.

Once the two vessels entered the channel at Little Box Head, the effect of the big seas subsided and the tow

line was shortened to manoeuvre through the tight Half Tide Rocks bar area and north into the relative calm of Brisbane Water.

CP 20 passed the tow to Marine Rescue Central Coast vessel *Central Coast 20* for safe passage to Woy Woy before returning to base by 7.30pm.

Broken Bay patience rewarded with new jetty

A \$120,000 investment provides much-needed wharf and rescue vessel.

After a two-year planning phase, steered by former Unit Commander Vic Lawrence and Michael Seale, Marine Rescue Broken Bay now has its own wharf at its base in Bayview.

The new jetty allows the unit to tie up its two rescue vessels when members are on duty without taking up space on the nearby public wharf. The \$44,000 project was funded through a \$35,000 NSW Government grant strongly supported by Pittwater MP Rob Stokes and unit funds.

Although it rained on the day the wharf was installed, this did not impede the construction.

The secure jetty incorporates a plastic floating pontoon anchored by two pylons. After the piles were hammered into the seabed, a dense plastic tube was hammered over the top and sealed to limit corrosion.

The unit's members have also



The new jetty means Broken Bay unit will no longer need to use the nearby public wharf.

welcomed their new vessel, *Broken Bay 20*, which was delivered in May. The \$75,000 6.5m Gemini open rigid hull inflatable with centre console was funded by the unit.

The Gemini joins *Broken Bay 30*, the unit's 34ft Steber on the waterway.

The unit also is preparing to celebrate 75 years of continual

service to the local boating community, with a major dinner for members and guests to be held at the Bayview Golf Club on November 3.

Red Cross 'volunteers' bearing up on board

Two units join forces for hands-on first aid training.

Marine Rescue Botany Bay has welcomed an intake of new "volunteers".

Two sisters, Jasmin, 9, and Scarlet, 4, of Coogee, recently met the crew of *Botany 30* at the Botany Bay boat ramp to hand over six colourful woollen Red Cross care bears.

Botany Bay member Hope Guy said crews on bay and river patrols often encountered and rescued boaties who had been involved in accidents on or in the water.

"Often there are also children to be rescued, too. Unfortunately, the young are prone to trauma and it has been proven that a soft, cuddly toy can be of great use in alleviating stress and tension on board when a rescue is under way," she said.

"The unit members thought it a great idea and another tool to assist

us in an emergency situation."

Members of Botany Bay and Port Hacking are now even better prepared to provide life-saving assistance on and off the water after 12 volunteers completed an Applying First Aid and Advanced Resuscitation Techniques course at the MRNSW Solander training facility.

Freshly qualified instructors using new MRNSW training kits set up a number of practical scenarios for the participants.

No longer are students expected to sit in class all day battling fatigue: there is now an expectation that to pass this course, students will "get down and dirty", which volunteers love to do.

The first day included bandaging and splint techniques, CPR, log rolls and information gathering. The highlight was a simulated



Sisters Jasmin and Scarlet present Botany Bay member Hope Guy with Red Cross care bears to comfort children in boating accidents.

accident involving saws, electrical equipment and gas bottles that left two "victims" suffering injuries. The second day involved the use of training defibrillators.

In other news, MR Port Hacking

sizzled 58kg of sausages at its July fundraising barbecue at Bunnings Caringbah, raising \$1400 in cold, wet, miserable weather.

Michele Sivertsen, Glenn Evans and Lee McDonagh

'Workhorse' makes way for new vessel

Ulladulla unit set to welcome its first purpose-built boat.

Having welcomed a new Unit Commander to the helm, Marine Rescue Ulladulla is now preparing for an action-packed few months as long-term projects and years of fundraising start bearing fruit.

The highlight of the pre-Christmas activity is expected to be delivery of a new Steber 38 – the first time the Ulladulla base will have a new vessel.

A development application has been lodged for a new training room at our harbour headquarters as the first stage of what members hope will become a full-scale refurbishment.

The existing building was built largely with volunteer labour and donated materials nearly 30 years ago but the unit has expanded enormously to outgrow the familiar signal station.

New Unit Commander Ken Lambert said it was an exciting time.

"We will be replacing the Arun class *Encounter* with the Steber 38 and are

hoping to start getting crews familiar with the vessel very soon," he said

"We've had good reports from our neighbours at Shoalhaven and Batemans Bay and we're looking forward to training with them."

Mr Lambert said that while *Encounter* had been a wonderful boat and great workhorse, it was becoming more costly and difficult to maintain at peak rescue-readiness.

"This will be our first brand new purpose-built vessel. A large contribution from unit funds is making it possible and we wouldn't have been able to do it without the tremendous support we have had over the years from the local community," he said.

Mr Lambert replaces former UC Doug Musker, who stood down after two terms as leader but has stayed on as administration officer.

He said Mr Musker, a former accountant, had brought the unit



Best wishes for a happy "retirement"... New Ulladulla Unit Commander Ken Lambert (right) with his predecessor Doug Musker.

to a healthy financial position and been instrumental in producing comprehensive standard operating procedures, ensuring mechanisms were in place to provide an efficient, professional service to the boating public.

A new management team of members is in place to help Mr

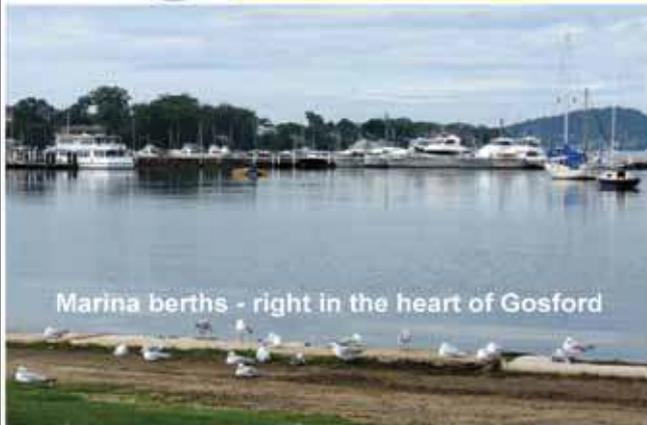
Lambert, whose wife, Di, is a stalwart of the unit's auxiliary.

Marine Rescue members of a local gospel choir, the Glorious MUDsingers, have joined their fellow-choristers in staging fundraisers for South Coast MRNSW units, most recently Jervis Bay and Ulladulla.

Jamie Roberts



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Setting course for busy summer on Jervis Bay

Winter training ensures unit will be well prepared for action.

Marine Rescue Jervis Bay volunteers have focused on a packed training schedule throughout the winter and are now preparing for another busy summer on the water with the refurbished *Colin Woods* back in service.

Unit members have been refreshing and upgrading their skills and knowledge in at least one training course a week, both practical and theoretical.

Thanks must go to Tony Drover for the effort he puts in to the organisation and instruction of these

courses, along with education officer John Gallimore, who never stops.

NSW Police Marine Area Command tasked the unit to conduct a missing person search in the first week of August when a kayak was washed on to rocks at Callala Bay. The search was later called off, with no one reported missing or found in the water.

This followed the re-dedication ceremony for the upgraded *Colin Woods* following its \$410,000 refit after 21 years of service.

The MRNSW Board of Directors, Commissioner Tannos,



Jervis Bay members have been undertaking at least one training course a week ahead of the busy summer boat season.

Shoalhaven Mayor Paul Green and representatives of the Royal Australian Navy and Roads and Maritime Services joined most of our members for the vessel's christening by Parliamentary Speaker and South

Coast MP Shelley Hancock. Unit Commander Greg Atkinson, Wayne Walker, Paul Ommundson and James Bennett-Burleigh received Long Service Medals. *Lester Shute*

Student takes step towards her dream career

Week with Shoalhaven members a 'great learning experience'.

A Shoalhaven Heads High School student has had a taste of a career on the water during a week's work experience with Marine Rescue Shoalhaven.

Lauren Gale, who hopes to join the Royal Australian Navy when she finishes school, spent the week as a new volunteer learning the ropes in the unit's Pilot House and on board rescue boat *SA 30*.

Lauren's MRNSW supervisor Dianne Taylor said the unit's work experience program included both practical and theoretical sessions with MR Shoalhaven's

many experienced volunteers.

"Our program topics include the roles and responsibilities of Shoalhaven Marine Rescue, administration and management at the Pilot House, the operation and controls of typical marine radio equipment, basic coastal navigation and maintaining our fleet," she said.

Lauren, who is in Year 11, said she had enjoyed being a radio operator, navigation exercises and heading out on *SA 30* the most.

"I would definitely tell other students to come to Marine Rescue Shoalhaven for work



Charting a future at sea ... Year 11 work experience student Lauren Gale and MR Shoalhaven's Dianne Taylor on radio duty in the Pilot House.

experience – it was a great learning experience," she said.

Unit Commander Terry Watson said providing work experience for

students was an opportunity for the unit to give something back to the local community.

Pat Welch

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Crews battle conditions to locate 'victims'

Batemans Bay hosts successful SAREX for six MRNSW units.

Six Marine Rescue NSW units took part in the annual Monaro Region Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX), staged at Batemans Bay in late July.

Our Marine Rescue Batemans Bay members were joined by their colleagues from the Eden, Merimbula, Bermagui, Narooma and Alpine Lakes units.

Other participants included representatives of the NSW Police Force Marine Area Command (MAC), Roads and Maritime Services, Surf Life Saving, Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service and HMAS Albatross Nowra, with a 723 Squadron Squirrel helicopter.

The weekend exercise began with a full day of classroom sessions on search and rescue techniques, followed on the second day by a practical exercise involving all agencies, vessels and aircraft.

Conditions were not good, with

two to three metre seas and a cold southerly ensuring a realistic search scenario that showed just how difficult it can be to locate and retrieve targets in adverse circumstances.

The exercise also saw crews conduct a short land search and recovery from Toll Gate Islands and transfer personnel from *Batemans Bay 21* to the stern access steps of police vessel, *PV Nemesis*, while under way.

The on-water exercise concluded early in the afternoon after the location and recovery of all three targets.

At the following debrief, MAC Marine Search and Rescue Co-ordinator, Sergeant Paul Farquharson, congratulated all participants on a successful exercise and highlighted the importance of land search skills when islands fell within search areas.

There was general agreement that



Members of six Marine Rescue units and their colleagues from a range of other services converged on Batemans Bay for their annual Search and Rescue Exercise.

co-operation and communications between command vessel *PV Nemesis* and other rescue boats had been good.

As always, this SAREX involved a lot of "out of the limelight work" and thanks go to all those involved in the catering and preparation for

the weekend's activities.

Thanks to the management of the Batemans Bay Marina for organising berths for *PV Falcon* and MR Merimbula and Narooma vessels and the Coachhouse Marina Resort for providing landing facilities.

Mick Kelly

New Merimbula skippers ready to take to sea

Unit thanks local supporters for Motorfest donations.

Marine Rescue Merimbula's commitment to training has produced excellent results, with the unit now boasting four additional rescue skippers.

Guy Illy, Robert Marsh, Ted Young and John Tait successfully completed their coxswain training, enabling them to skipper Merimbula's rescue vessel.

Training Officer Bill Blakeman said the lengthy training course, which

In other unit news, members joined motoring enthusiasts at the Pambula Motorfest for cars, bikes and 4WDs at the Pambula Recreation Ground on Sunday, July 8.

Organiser Sav Vassallo said he was thrilled by the roll-up of more than 100 vehicles for the inaugural event and particularly pleased to have the support of Merimbula members on the day.

Coxswain training has achieved the excellent result of four new rescue vessel skippers.

covered all aspects of mastering a rescue vessel, would allow the members to take *Sapphire Rescue III* to sea and alleviate a recent shortage in trained coxswains.

MRNSW Monaro Director Howard Staples presented the new coxswains with their certificates.

Merimbula Unit Commander Barry Harrison said it was a great opportunity for members to assist with the day's event.

"We thank Sav and his Motorfest Committee for their generous support with a donation of over \$4000 to Marine Rescue



Pambula Motorfest organiser Sav Vassallo (centre) thanks MR Merimbula members Glenda Anderson, Ted Young, Rob Bayliss, Stephen Hicks, Walter Kleiner, Bill Blakeman and Jan Dabinett for their assistance with the first instalment of a generous donation.

Merimbula," Mr Harrison said.

He said the money raised would go towards a new training facility the unit was looking to build.

Mr Harrison also thanked coffee vendor Kathy Arnold from More Than Beans for her generous donation on the day.

Eden again proves vital link in sea emergency

Yacht crew thanks MRNSW volunteers for keeping watch during difficult rescue.

Winter has brought cold blustery conditions to the Far South Coast of NSW and predictably, a downturn in marine traffic.

Instead of dealing on a daily basis with scores of private fishing boats and transiting vessels, MR Eden is watching over a handful of hardy locals and the odd passing yacht heading for warmer climes.

One such transiting yacht lost its propeller and damaged its rigging in trying weather conditions on June 29, 40 nm south of Eden. The yacht was not registered on the offshore tracking system and initially didn't declare an emergency.

The MR Eden watchkeeper discussed the situation with the skipper and finally an emergency was declared and the NSW Police Force Marine Area Command (MAC) notified.

Successive Eden MR watchkeepers, who had the only reliable contact with the vessel, acted as a relay between it, police and shore authorities.

The yacht and its crew of two were taken into tow and arrived safely in Eden some 11 hours after their initial call. The next day the crew visited the MR Eden station to personally thank the watchkeepers, who had been their link to the outside world.

This is not the first incident in which MR Eden has played a significant part, following the successful rescue of an elderly couple whose yacht was blown ashore on a wild section of the Victorian coast 60 nm south-east of Eden in May.

These incidents demonstrate the valuable role that reliable long-range communications at MR Eden play



Eden Marine Area Command's Senior Constable John Zinno shows MR Eden members Nev Cowgill, Stuart Manson and Tony Heriot the workings of the electronic search and rescue equipment on board *PV Falcon* during the Batemans Bay SAREX. *Photo: John Steele*

in the safety of lives at sea and the professionalism of our watchkeepers.

Eden members also took part in the recent Monaro Region Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) at Batemans Bay, spending a morning

aboard Eden-based NSW Police boat *PV Falcon* as observers for the search phase of the exercise and successfully finding one of the "targets".

John Steele

BEACON REGISTRATION

WHY IT MATTERS

Your 406 MHz distress beacon registration details provide essential information for rescuers in an emergency.

Not only will rescuers know where you are, they will know who you are and who to contact for more information which may assist in the rescue effort.

This information is critical, especially if your beacon is not GPS equipped, your location can be determined much faster when your beacon is registered.

Registration of 406 MHz distress beacons is mandatory.
You can register and update your information online with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

www.amsa.gov.au/beacons
1800 406 406

 Australian Government
Australian Maritime Safety Authority

LIFE SAVER

New boat feature



The 9.5m Wooli 30 tackles the notorious Wooli Bar with ease.

Another Naiad joins the fleet

Wooli unit improves response times with state of the art rescue vessel.

Marine Rescue NSW welcomed another Naiad rescue vessel to its fleet when the 9.5m *Wooli 30* was formally commissioned in June.

Wooli 30 was built by one of Naiad's two Australian licensees, Yamba Welding and Engineering Pty Ltd on the North Coast of NSW. The other is Kirby Marine in Western Australia.

Naiad is the dominant brand in Australasia's commercial RHB (Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat) market with about 90 per cent of its production going to commercial, government and emergency rescue customers. Naiad was established in New Zealand in 1975 and its international success led to licensee builders in other countries, including the USA and Australia.

John Cowan, a director of Naiad,

in Australia for the 2012 Sydney International Boat Show said: "I was first a customer of Naiad and I liked the design innovation so much that I bought into the company."

As a customer with responsibility for the lives of recreational boaters on NSW waters, MRNSW was strongly influenced by Naiad's build quality, its continuous design evolution and one of its principal points of difference – the removable buoyant tubes.

Repairs and replacements can be carried out much more quickly than if the tubes are glued or bolted to the rigid hull. This is also useful in military applications where it is vital to change damaged tubes quickly in the field of operation.

The option of foam buoyant tubes is also available for environments

not suited to air-filled tubes. Marine Rescue NSW has opted for these in some locations.

Yamba Welding and Engineering (YWE) is headed by Bill Collingburn, whose ex-Royal Australian Navy experience and precision engineering skills in aluminium design and fabrication form the foundation of the company's strength.

Marine Rescue will soon have a total of 10 Naiads in its fleet of fast response rescue vessels. A 9.5m boat for the Brunswick unit is under construction, another 9.5m boat will be positioned at Crowdy Harrington and two 10m vessels will be ordered for Trial Bay and Lake Macquarie units.

MRNSW Deputy Commissioner Heinz Mueller said: "NSW has a

wide range of ports from which our rescue vessels need to deploy. Marine Rescue NSW has chosen new Naiads for a number of its units.

"These are fast response vessels built to 2C survey standard and capable of deploying up to 30nm offshore. They can operate for up to 10 hours with sufficient crew and are well suited for rescue operations involving a bar crossing in adverse conditions."

MR UNIT COMMENTS

Richard Taffs, Marine Rescue Master, Wooli

Marine Rescue Wooli crew members have participated in an intensive vessel induction program since taking delivery of *Wooli 30* from YWE four months ago. After

more than 30 training sessions in day and night conditions, over 100 engine hours, 1000 nm and responses to assist vessels, we have become comfortable operating this new RHIB with its advanced electronic navigation and SAR systems.

Wooli 30 has greatly expanded our operational capacity, especially the ability to operate out of our port with its notorious coastal bar and provide a faster response over a greater range in rougher conditions.

The ability for our units to work together and complement one another is important. The *Wooli Naiad* provides a fast response for our isolated stretch of coast and MRNSW is now well-equipped with a range of new rescue vessels in our region.

John Peers, Boats Officer, Marine Rescue Crowdy Harrington. Ours is a smaller (6.8m) and older

model *Naiad*. It was refurbished after service with NSW Maritime. The deep V hull is one of its best points as it enables us to maintain a good over-water speed in rough conditions for a small boat. Its twin 115hp Yamaha engines give us the power we need for fast response.

The cabin is a comfortable size for a small vessel. It is well ventilated with large side windows and one large and one small roof hatch. The high cabin allows the radar to be operational yet not affect crew working at deck level.

Good fuel capacity of 200 litres gives an excellent, economic operating range.

The inflatable sponsons are quite forgiving when training crew in docking although the care necessary to avoid damage is a valuable incentive for careful, precise handling.



The helm (above) and navigation set-up (below) on the new *Wooli 30*.



TECH SPECS

Wooli 30

Survey Class	2C
Survey Length	9.24m
Beam	3.04m
Draft	0.68m
Displacement	4.0 T
WOT (Wide Open Throttle) speed	43 knts
Cruising speed	30-32 knts
Fuel capacity	600L
Operational range	200nm+
Engines	2 x 186 kW (Suzuki 250 hp)
Survey Passenger Capacity	8 persons
Electronics	Compact, integrated electronics package with separate Raymarine C120W multifunction screens for skipper and navigator; 80W solar panel keeps batteries always charged Radar – RD424HD High Definition digital 4kw Radome DSM3000 sounder module Rayplot Fluxgate compass, Gyroplus 2 radar/chart overlay FLIR T300 thermal imaging camera with feed to nav station Ray 430 public address system with fwd and aft speakers Radio Direction Finder – Taiyo TDL 1550A VHF
Radios	2 x Icom ICM 505B Marine with DSC Icom command mic to helm GME GX300W Marine 27 Meg Radio Tait TM 8250 with 2 remote heads marine DCN EPIRB GME MT400-406Mhz
AIS	Furuno A 12-24vDC

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GEAR UP

Essential new equipment

BURKE MARINE

Lifejackets for infants

Parents of very young boaters will be interested in a new lifejacket for babies and toddlers weighing between 3kg and 15kg. Burke Marine's new Baltic Bambi Personal Flotation Device has been designed with optimum buoyancy properties to ensure the infant always turns and floats face up, while the adjustable waistband and two-position crutch strap provide a secure fitting. The Bambi has a lifting strap fitted on the collar and is made from high visibility fabric and retro-reflective patches. It is the only infant PFD on the market packed with baby-soft Airex foam and a large, baby-sensitive fleece collar to prevent chafing. The front-entry design also makes it easier for parents to fit on to youngsters.

burkemarine.com.au, \$105



RAYMARINE

Touchscreen navigation

Raymarine has launched its new a-Series multifunction navigation displays. The compact swipe, touch and navigate unit is easy to use and has been engineered for boats under 30ft (9.14m). It has a bright LED backlit display for sharp colour and contrast in sunlight and the displays offer simple and quick access to navigation applications like GPS, sonar and radar. The two models include a 50 channel internal GPS and Navionics Silver cartography on microSD. Boaters can choose the a65 MFD for GPS navigation and networking, while serious anglers will appreciate the a67 MFD with ClearPulse digital sonar built-in. Add-on options include Raymarine's RCU-3 Bluetooth steering wheel remote. Visit raymarine.com for pricing.



APP REVIEW

Navionics

The Navionics App for iPhones and iPads gives boaters and anglers access to award-winning vector charts. Any downloaded chart data stays on your iPhone, visible even without wireless coverage. Plan trips, check tides, set routes and markers; record your track, capture geo-tagged pictures and create a virtual travelogue to share with family or friends. The Community Layer allows you to contribute to building the best localised data. Edit charts to include rocks, obstructions, buoys, beacons, signs, lights, ports, anchorages and moorings. Your edits will be visible to the Navionics community almost instantly. iPhone app \$15.99, iTunes. apple.com/au/app/marine-australia-newzealand/



Rapturous reception for gold medal sailors

Marine Rescue joins welcome home parade for Wangi Wangi heroes.



Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie Deputy Unit Commander Roger Evans with Olympic gold medallists Nathan Outteridge and Iain Jensen.



Nathan Outteridge and Iain Jensen in action on day two of the Olympic sailing competition off Weymouth. Photo: Ingrid Abery © ingridabery.com

Wangi Wangi was awash with green and gold as the community turned out to welcome home its newest heroes, Olympic gold medallists Nathan Outteridge and Iain Jensen, on September 1.

The Wangi locals sailed to victory in the men's 49er skiff class after building an unassailable lead

heading into the final race of the Olympic regatta off Weymouth.

They were greeted with cheering crowds waving flags as they paraded on the shores of Lake Macquarie in a golden ute on September 1.

Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie Deputy Unit Commander Roger

Evans represented Marine Rescue NSW in the welcome home parade, which ended at the Wangi RSL Amateur Sailing Club.

A reception was held on the club's foreshore, attended by dignitaries including Climate Change Minister and Charlton MP Greg Combet, Lake Macquarie

Mayor Greg Piper, Yachting Australia CEO Phil Jones and Yachting NSW President Howard Elliot.

The event also marked the Sailing Club's Opening day. The annual Blessing of the Fleet followed the medallists' reception, with Nathan and Iain taking the salute.

FUNDRAISING

Building a future together

Sailing for glory

Emergency services compete on water.



Beautiful Lake Macquarie will be the venue for the fourth annual NSW Police and Emergency Services Sailing Regatta in November.

Pride will be on the line when members of the emergency services take to the water for the fourth annual NSW Police and Emergency Services Sailing Regatta, to be staged on Lake Macquarie.

The NSW Police Sailing Club and Royal Motor Yacht Club, Toronto, are hosting the race event on November 12 and 13, which also will raise funds for MRNSW and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service.

Police Sailing Club Commodore David Blakemore said the regatta would comprise five non-spinnaker races in under and over 30ft divisions, with a free barbecue at the end of each day's racing.

Entry is open to all retired and serving members of the emergency services, including State and Federal Police, MRNSW, maritime authorities, the NSW Rural Fire Service, Fire and Rescue NSW, NSW Ambulance Service, State Emergency Service, Volunteer Rescue Association, Australian Defence Force and Corrective Services.

"For the first time, the NSW Police Sailing Club has also opened entry to the regatta to all other yachts associated with yacht or sailing clubs on Lake Macquarie," Commodore Blakemore said.

"Prizes will be awarded to first and second places in each of the five races and the overall first,

second and third places, through the generous sponsorship of the Police Credit Union and RMYC Toronto.

"A separate free raffle will also be held for skippers and crew, with prizes provided by a number of companies associated with the Lake Macquarie waterway."

The RMYC has a boat ramp and ample parking for trailerable yachts. Free overnight berthing and shower facilities are available on the club wharf for yachts and crews.

Commodore Blakemore said SailTime Lake Macquarie had provided the use of two skippered Beneteau 34 yachts for groups of up to four people on each to sail among the racing fleet each day.

"The cost of each yacht is \$250 a day, with all money raised through the use of these two magnificent yachts to be evenly donated to Marine Rescue NSW and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service," he said.

"This would be most suitable for a group or unit and/or their partners from within the emergency services to experience the thrill of racing while relaxing in comfort and enjoying Lake Macquarie."

Race entry forms will be available through the Royal Motor Yacht Club Toronto website, rmyctoronto.com.au. Inquiries also can be directed to Commodore Blakemore on 0409 743 238.

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FUNDRAISING

Creative ideas for donation dollars

Nancy hammers away for a good cause

Lake Macquarie cashes in on crushed cans.

There are unsung heroes within the Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie unit, men and women who quietly carry out the work needed to keep the rescue service running.

One of these heroes isn't even a member: John Fenwick's better half, Nancy. Nancy is a fundraiser and like every fundraiser, she deserves a medal. She belongs to that special group of committed supporters who toil away day after day.

Most mornings she picks up a small green stool and a hammer, sits down in front of a wood block in the midst of a pile of empty aluminium cans and works to raise money for the Lake Macquarie unit.

Nancy is methodical. Each can receives one smack in the middle,

then a smack on each end with the flat of the hammer. The compacted can is tossed into a large bag and it's on to the next one: 300 cans an hour.

With the latest consignment of compacted cans numbering 9300, Nancy and John have raised another \$108.50 for our unit. It would have been more but the scrap dealer has reduced the scrap aluminium price from 95 to 75 cents a kilogram.

Unit member Norman Pritchard had co-ordinated this process for many years until he suffered a serious accident last year, when John Fenwick took on the collection and co-ordination role in addition to his Stores Officer and Watch Officer duties.

Volunteers also work at barbecue stands, run fundraising events and



Striking a blow ... Nancy Fenwick hard at work to help raise funds for MR Lake Macquarie.

every week Thelma McCard and her helpers sell tickets in a boat raffle. The rescue boats and Radio Operators

are the public face of MRNSW but the volunteer fundraisers are its lifeblood.

Bruce Madison

Finding the fun in fundraising

Batemans Bay unit makes collecting donations an enjoyable experience.

If you ask people why they joined Marine Rescue, most will talk about the boat crew or radio room but Marine Rescue is much more than boats and radios.

Take the fundraising crew, for example. All units have one – they are the lifeblood of Marine Rescue. At a glance, you might think fundraising just looks like hard work but look again. You have probably missed the important bits.

The fundraising crew at MR Batemans Bay raises a lot of money: more than \$100,000 last year. This is a small but dedicated group of specialists. We like to think of ourselves as the SAS – Social and Support crew.

We meet every few weeks to organise and review activities, roster staff, generate ideas, gloat over how much money we made and talk with unit management.

The MR Batemans Bay market is held one Sunday a month. It's a 6am start to set up the tent and tables,

chat with others on the crew, fire up the barbie, cash up and balance the till and get the ingredients supply line going. This is a well-oiled machine. Everyone carves out their special niche; some bring along expertise, others want to learn something new.

All the fundraisers are there because we get a lot out of it – week in, week out. It's great to be working with a group of others who gather for a common goal, enjoy each other's company, share their skills and know they are doing something worthwhile.

We get great feedback from the public. Funnily enough, I suspect the general public is more likely to stop and thank the fundraising crew, rather than the boat crews or the radio room. The others might do the work that gets noticed but we get most of the thanks from the public!

Fundraising has some other obvious benefits – the first sausages off the grill on a cold morning hit the spot just nicely and there's satisfaction at the end of the day



A fun and rewarding role: some of MR Batemans Bay fundraising crew's members Peter Varkulevicius, Heather Moloney, Lyn Radley, Kris Hodgson, Bill Radley, Trish Taylor, Peter Bennett and Doug Wood.

knowing you have helped raise so much money for the unit. We go places and do things you could never do alone: run a community market, wave the flag for MRNSW in the shopping centre, be part of the local triathlon support crew, chat with the public at the bingo or elsewhere.

We also have the satisfaction of knowing we help keep the show on the road. No fundraising, no MRNSW. We see the MR vessels on the water

and the equipment at the base and know we helped pay for it.

I'm sure all MRNSW unit fundraising crews could do with a few extra hands. Yes, sometimes it is hard work, but it has more than enough personal benefits to compensate for the occasional frosty mornings. If you have recently joined MRNSW and are looking for an important role, have a talk to the fundraising crew.

Bill Radley

What we've been up to



Marine Rescue The Entrance put its new rescue vessel *TE 20* to the test soon after delivery, towing a seaplane to safety after it developed tail rudder problems when landing near Picnic Point on Tuggerah Lakes, preventing it from manoeuvring correctly.



Ross Constable is Narooma's first Marine Rescue Master. Ross also holds other commercial qualifications through his work as a National Parks and Wildlife Service skipper. *Photo: Narooma News.*



Deputy Commissioner Heinz Mueller steers the Whitley Voyager donated to MRNSW by Bruce Hogan and Tina Clifton across Sydney Harbour under menacing skies.



Port Hacking's chefs take a breather before the afternoon rush hour at the Bunnings BBQ. Colin Broom, George Kelly, Rohan Stirling, Stanley Randall and Janene Stanley helped raise \$1400.



After 12 years as MR Camden Haven Unit Commander, George Tedds, 91, stood down in July. New UC Ken Clancy and his team are looking forward to meeting the challenges of the future.

Rules in place to help migrating whales

Strict regulations protect these animals from waterway interference.

Whale watching is still in full swing along the NSW coastline as the giant mammals return south for the summer from their winter breeding grounds in the north.

The whale watching season begins from May each year when humpbacks, minke, orcas, false killer whales and other species start their annual journey north where calves are born. They then return to the Antarctic through spring.

With many whales – and calves – travelling close to the coastline and pausing in prime locations such as Sydney Harbour and Jervis Bay, boaters need to be aware of strict regulations in place to help protect the animals from interference.

Whales, especially when they are on the move with new calves, can become very distressed. Vessels that crowd around, noise and downward thrust from aircraft and close human interactions can disturb them, causing them to become defensive.

State and Commonwealth agencies are working together on Operation CETUS, conducting joint patrols to protect whales, educate the boating community, monitor boating activities and low flying aircraft and enforce regulations.

State agencies, including Marine Rescue NSW, also join forces for Operation Whale Watch in Sydney Harbour.

Boaters should remember that caution zones are set for the safety of both whales and vessels, meaning boats cannot approach any closer than 100m from a whale or 300m if a calf is in the pod.

Vessels must always travel at a slow “no wash” speed. Do not cut across the whale’s path or position your boat directly in front of or behind the mammals.

On the North Coast, whale watching and eco-tourism has replaced the whaling industry, which ran from 1954 to 1962 in Byron Bay.

MR Brunswick Unit Commander



A close encounter for a stand-up paddler at Birubi Point as these whales headed north in July. Photo: Deb van Drueten

Owen Danvers said boaters should take great care and ensure they observed the strict regulations about approaching and moving around whales.

“These rules are there to protect the whales and obviously for people’s own safety around these enormous creatures, which can cause significant harm if they get

too close to a boat because they are stressed or even just curious,” he said.

“Boaters should always remember to log on and off with the nearest Marine Rescue unit before they head out.”

For full whale watching regulations, visit maritime.nsw.gov.au/campaigns/whale.html.

Safety plan for Botany Bay boaters

Public given say on new management guidelines for popular region.

NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is seeking public comment on a draft boating safety plan for Botany Bay, the Georges River and other tributaries.

The Draft Boating Safety Plan – which covers Botany Bay, the Cooks River to the Princes Highway Bridge, the Georges River, including Chipping Norton Lakes, and the Woronora River – aims to provide

provided an opportunity to involve the boating community in identifying appropriate on-water restrictions and addressing issues arising from boating activities on specific waterways.

Stakeholders including State and local government agencies, members of Parliament, local clubs and associations, local marina and boat shed operators and peak user

upon the entire estuary system:

- Vessel operators’ behaviour
- Compliance and enforcement
- Waterway access and management.

During the five years to June 2011, 123 incidents were reported on the entire estuary, almost all of which involved recreational vessels.

In 2010-11, 193 penalty notices were issued in the area – 11 per cent of all penalty notices issued in NSW. Almost half were around Revesby and the Georges River National Park, for infringements such as excessive speed, failure to carry the correct safety equipment and failure to comply with safety requirements in general.

The draft boating plan also explores a proposal to establish an aquatic park – a dedicated area for personal water craft use – at Floyd Bay in the Chipping Norton Lakes, helping relieve pressure in other locations, such as Lady Robinsons and Revesby beaches.

The final boating safety plan for the Georges River and surrounding tributaries will be a model for future boating safety plans, with the next to be developed for Sydney Harbour and its tributaries.

The draft boating plan can be seen at RMS offices in Sutherland, Liverpool and Rozelle. Comment can be made on the draft plan until September 21.

During the five years to June 2011, 123 incidents were reported on the entire estuary.

an overarching guide to managing these popular waterways.

An RMS spokeswoman said the development of a boating plan

groups were consulted in the first stage of the plan’s development.

During this process, three major issues were identified as impacting

Kioloa mourns long-time leader

Fred Noble was a hardworking Unit Commander and tireless fundraiser.



Fred Noble

Marine Rescue Kioloa has lost its long-term champion, with the death of Unit Commander Fred Noble on August 13.

Fred, 74, joined the then Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol (RVCP) unit in 1999 after moving to Bawley Point when he retired. He became a radio operator, installing standby radios in his home, and completed crewman training before becoming Divisional Commander in 2000.

Despite ill health, Fred was also a member of the Shoalhaven Rural

Fire Service's Central Catering Unit. He only scaled back his catering duties after becoming Divisional Commander, although he still worked 45 days straight during the 2001 Shoalhaven bushfires.

In 2005 Fred learned that the Kioloa rescue vessel did not meet new regulations so set about fundraising to extend the boat shed to accommodate a larger vessel.

One of his greatest strengths was his ability to fundraise. Maybe his easy manner, quick wit and

laughter and the ability to not take himself too seriously helped him extract the dollars required, mainly from tourists, so that his team of Kioloa volunteers raised funds not only to extend the base but also to purchase a larger vessel and replace their pre-1950 tractor.

In 2006, Fred received the newly created Officer Commanding Award for his achievements and at the final RVCP AGM in 2009 was awarded Life Membership.

Joan Noble

Original director a 'fine example to us all'

Neil McCartney served with honour and dedication.



Neil McCartney

One of the foundation directors of Marine Rescue NSW has passed away, aged 74, after almost a quarter of a century's commitment to saving lives on the water.

Neil McCartney first joined the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Port Hacking flotilla in 1988, attaining the rank of Leading Coxswain before becoming Vice Flotilla Commander from 1990 to 1992 and Commander for the following two years.

When he moved to Port Macquarie in 1994, Neil joined Port Macquarie

Sea Rescue, rising to the rank of Skipper then Unit Secretary and Unit Administrator for eight years.

A boat licence trainer and examiner, he contributed to the maintenance of the unit's three vessels and boat shed and was a delegate on the Volunteer Rescue Association Board (Maritime).

His contribution was recognised with Life Membership of Port Macquarie Sea Rescue and when Marine Rescue NSW was formed, Neil was invited to join the original Board

to help guide the new organisation.

Neil spent a substantial part of his working life with State Rail and also was involved with the Naval Cadets, rising to the rank of Lieutenant and Commanding Officer of *PS Sirius* for the Australian Navy Reserve.

Deputy Commissioner Heinz Mueller presented Neil with his 20-year service medal on May 15.

Neil is survived by his wife, two daughters and three grandchildren and was a fine example to us all.

Peter Ellison

Vale Arthur after a life at sea

Forster-Tuncurry mourns oldest member.



Arthur Dreckmeyer

Members of Marine Rescue Forster-Tuncurry farewelled their oldest member, Arthur Dreckmeyer, in July. He was 91.

Arthur was born in Germany and followed his father, a professional fisherman, to a life at sea, serving on various merchant ships before World War II, when he was conscripted into the Germany Navy.

After the war, he worked on salvage tugs before moving to Sydney, where he worked with Sydney Ferries before leaving the

sea to work in air conditioning.

Arthur and his family moved to Forster, where he joined the then Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol (now Marine Rescue NSW) in the late 1980s. He had a short break before returning and remained an active unit member until his sudden death.

Arthur's vast knowledge of ships and seamanship was put to good use as a rescue crew member, skipper, search master and trainer. He was always pushing the fundraising barrow and could be seen around Forster-

Tuncurry selling "petrol" tickets or at the boat ramps getting boaties to join our Marine Radio Safety Service and handing out local knowledge.

Arthur's dedication was recognised in 2008 when he was awarded the NSW Maritime Safety Medal.

Arthur's commitment to RVCP/MRNSW was catching as one of his daughters, Jutta, has just brought up her 10-year membership, serving as Unit Treasurer for the past four years.

Dennis Travers

Crowdy Harrington loses a great friend

Jack Anderson will be sorely missed.

Members of Marine Rescue Crowdy Harrington lost a great friend and hardworking unit member with the passing of Jack Anderson, 63, on June 20.

Jack recently received a Volunteer Service Award for his great work within our unit, which he joined in 2002, when we were still the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol.

Awarded his 10 year Long Service Medal just before his death, Jack was active in all aspects of fundraising, was a fantastic cook on the barbecue and always helped his neighbours.

As the keeper of the keys for the council toilets under our base, he would ride his motor scooter to unlock them daily at 6am and lock them again at 6pm.

Everyone knew when Jack had



Jack Anderson

arrived at the base because he was always a very bright and cheerful presence.

He is sadly missed by his wife Kay and family, as well as his mates at the base.

Jack always finished his Tuesday radio shift with: "Good night and God bless." Good night and God bless you, Jack.

Kevin Nicholls



16 July 2012

Mr Stacey Tannos,
Commissioner
Marine Rescue NSW

Dear Mr Tannos,

I have recently received the quarterly journal *Soundings* issue 11. Thank you for sending me the journal as I have greatly enjoyed reading about the achievements and activities of the NSW Marine Rescue and its volunteers.

I would like to acknowledge the important role your organisation plays as an emergency service in keeping our communities safe and looking after the people on our waters. All the best for the rest of 2012, I look forward to hearing more about the great work you are doing in your next publication.

Yours sincerely,

John Sidoti MP
Member for Drummoyne

Phone: (02) 9713 2999 Fax: (02) 9713 2911 Mail: PO Box 550, Five Dock NSW 2046
Electorate Office: 128 Great North Road, Five Dock 2046 Email: drummoyne@parliament.nsw.gov.au

A big thank you!

Plaudits for Port Stephens MRNSW unit.

heinz.mueller@marinerescuensw.com.au
stacey.tannos@marinerescuensw.com.au

To Heinz and Stacey,

On Saturday (July 28) at 13:00 *Wave Sweeper* and her crew, of which I was one, embarked on a very cold and very bumpy ride in the Sydney to Southport yacht race.

Although the vessel is subject to continuous maintenance schedules and is very well maintained, one never really knows what one will encounter on the open seas; and that is, as most yachties know, part of the great joy that draws us to sailing. A test of oneself and often a working together of crew and sometimes external teams.

We encountered very lumpy seas, with swells and waves reaching seven metres further out and winds clocking up to 45 knots from the south/south-west.

There were several incidents, such as a sheet-line letting go, causing our masthead kite to wrap itself around the forestay with a wineglass, and vang issues. We made a decision to pull into Port Stephens for repairs before continuing the race but encountered a prop issue just outside the heads, with a line wrapped around the prop, ultimately leaving us with no engine power.

The wrapped up spinnaker, although useless, still gave us enormous drive in the winds we were experiencing, therefore, we found ourselves adrift outside the heads in front of the islands, putting us in a rather precarious position. We had no alternative, but to contact Marine Rescue Port Stephens for assistance.

This is to say thank you from the Skipper Morgan Rogers of *Wave Sweeper*, her crew and myself, for the rescue, the professional service and prompt response we received on Saturday night from Marine Rescue NSW Port Stephens and we appreciate everything that was done that night to rescue us and tow us to safety and stop us drifting and running aground on one of the islands.

We stayed at Port Stephens for a few hours to take care of necessary repairs and then continued to Southport, although retired from the race, and thankfully without further significant incidents. The yacht has commitments up north, which had to be met.

As we understand it, there are a number of yachts which sustained damage in this race and a few which consequently had to retire.

The remainder of the trip was just as wild and fast but there is something absolutely magnificent about surfing down a wave in the middle of the night, in the middle of the ocean, guided by the moon and the stars.

It is thanks to people/organisations like Marine Rescue NSW, that we can enjoy such an amazing privilege, knowing that they are always on stand-by to look after us. This cannot be underestimated.

Thank you again from everyone on *Wave Sweeper* and myself – and it has highlighted just how important competency-based training, and a close working relationship between people and organisations really is!

Sibby Ilzhöfer B.A. (University of Newcastle)
Group 314 Operational and Management Support

GME

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Warranty



Battery Life

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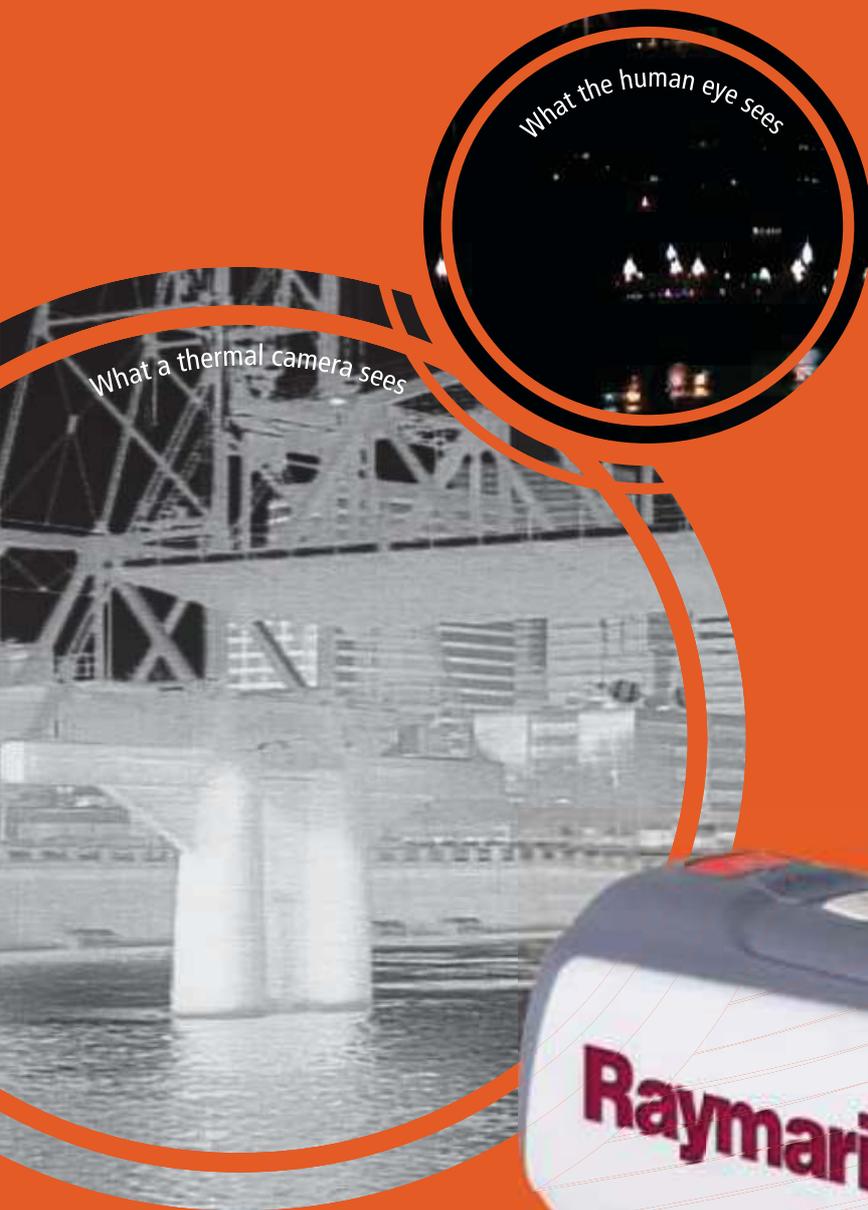


The power to see in total darkness

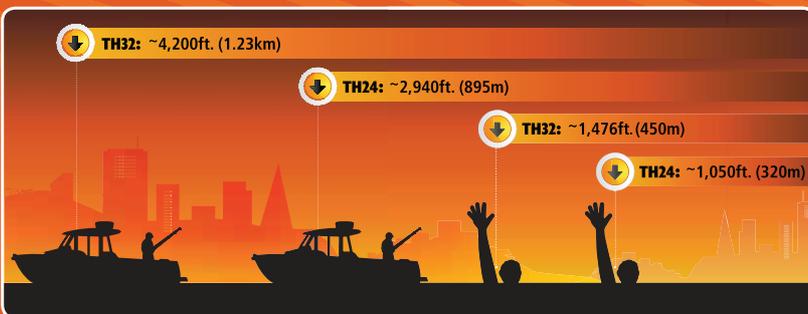
The same scene. Two very different views – the naked eye and a Raymarine thermal camera image. The new Raymarine TH24 and TH32 Thermal Cameras give boaters the power to see clearly in total darkness in a compact, handheld easily accessible format.

The TH24 and TH32 Thermal Cameras make pictures from heat, not light, helping you see landmarks, bridge abutments, and other vessels clearly in all light conditions from daylight to complete darkness. Thermal night vision improves your ability to see rocks, buoys, floating debris, and even helps you find people in the water, vital when just a few minutes makes all the difference in the matter of survival.

The new TH Series Thermal Cameras from Raymarine



Range Detection Guide



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