

Volunteers saving lives on the water

SOUNDINGS



Quarterly Journal of Marine Rescue NSW | Issue 13, December 2012

ROYAL VISIT

Prince Charles thanks
MRNSW volunteers

SUMMER SOS

Essential emergency tips

SMOOTH OPERATOR

Cobia 6.25 Enforcer RHIB



PLUS: New Board election | BCF supports our work | Lifejacket campaign

SOS MARINE

AUSTRALIA'S AWARD WINNING INNOVATORS OF MARINE RESCUE EQUIPMENT

SOS Marine is an ISO 9001 manufacturer of maritime safety equipment providing specialised lifejackets and man-overboard equipment for naval forces, maritime law enforcement agencies and a range of marine industry professionals, as well as leisure industry requirements. SOS Marine supplies safety equipment to 12 international defence forces worldwide.

Y.A. APPROVED



SOS DAN BUOY
CERTIFIED TO ELEMENTS OF ISO 12042

LIFEJACKETS FOR THE PROFESSIONALS

S.O.S. Waterfront Lifejacket Vests are designed to meet the requirements of the water-front professional.

The light weight load bearing vest configuration has an optional hands-free hydration system and is ISO 12402 approved.

S.O.S WATERFRONT LIFEJACKET
IN A WORK-VEST. DESIGNED FOR
PROFESSIONALS: PRODUCT NUMBER:
SOS-6103

SOS Marine, Survival Operations Specialist
23a Rochester Street, Botany NSW 2019 Australia
T: +61 2 97000233 E: sales@sosmarine.com

www.sosmarine.com



S.O.S **MARINE**
SYDNEY AUSTRALIA

SOUNDINGS

Quarterly Journal of Marine Rescue NSW

Cover Images

Middle Harbour 30 escorts the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall, on board the Royal Australian Navy Admiral's Barge, across Sydney Harbour. The Prince also met Commissioner Stacey Tannos, Broken Bay Unit Commander George Patterson and Cottage Point's Jonathon Bensley at a reception at Bondi.

Publisher

Marine Rescue NSW
Level 5, 9-13 Young Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Contact

Kate Woods, Ken McManus
Phone: 02 8071 4848
Fax: 02 9969 5214
Email: soundings@marinerescuensw.com.au

Editor

Ashley Gray

Design and Layout

Nicole Brown

Advertising

Graham Joss
Email: graham.joss@marinerescuensw.com.au
Phone: 0419 492 836

Printing

Printing, binding and mailing by Galloping Press Pty Ltd
Unit 29/398 The Boulevard, Kirrawee NSW 2232

Marine Rescue NSW is pleased to acknowledge the invaluable support of our *Soundings* advertisers.

© Copyright Volunteer Marine Rescue New South Wales. Reproduction in whole or in part prohibited without permission of the publisher.

Marine Rescue NSW encourages the use of *Soundings* articles on boating safety. Permission to use and supply of relevant images can be obtained from the publisher.



MARINE RESCUE NSW
Volunteers saving lives on the water

Volunteer Marine Rescue New South Wales
ABN 98 138 078 092
Level 5
9-13 Young Street, Sydney NSW 2000
Phone: 02 8071 4848 Fax: 02 9969 5214
Email: admin@marinerescuensw.com.au

FROM THE HELM

- 2 Commissioner's report
- 4 Chairman's report

ON THE RADAR

- 3 • Royal patron thanks our volunteers
- 4-5 • SOLAS grant to upgrade radio coverage
• Tie leads to new poll for Sydney director
- 6 • New partnership helps keep service strong
• Marine expo a first for Sydney
- 8 • Vandalism of Woolli vessel condemned
- 11 • New campaign focuses on lifejacket safety

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

- 9 Port Kembla Radio Operator John Aldridge

MAKING WAVES

- 14-16 **Northern Rivers news**
 - Northern Rivers SAREX • Brunswick • Ballina
- 17-24 **Mid North Coast news**
 - Coffs Harbour • Woolgoolga • Forster-Tuncurry
 - Port Macquarie • Camden Haven
- 25-26 **Hunter/Central Coast news**
 - Lake Macquarie • Central Coast • Port Stephens
- 27-28 **Greater Sydney news**
 - Broken Bay • Hawkesbury • Botany Bay
- 30-31 **Illawarra news**
 - Illawarra SAREX • Port Kembla • Sussex Inlet
- 32-33 **Monaro news**
 - Eden • Bermagui • Narooma

FEATURES

- 19-22 Safe summer boating
- 34-35 The Cobia 6.25 Enforcer RHIB
- 36 National award for yacht race rescue

PICTURE GALLERY

- 13 & 37 What we've been up to

GEAR UP

- 38 Must-have new equipment

IN MEMORIAM

- 39-40 Tributes to valued members

LETTERS

- 40 Feedback

From the Commissioner

Marine Rescue is fortunate to have enjoyed much good will in 2012.



Commissioner,
Stacey Tannos ESM

So this is Christmas... To paraphrase John Lennon a little, another busy year is just about over and a new one just about to begin. But that doesn't mean that members of Marine Rescue NSW will be enjoying a well-earned rest over Christmas and New Year. Our volunteers are likely to be busier than ever over the festive season as the boating community takes to the water with gusto. No doubt many will find some boating gadgets and fishing gear under the tree on Christmas morning. If you're shopping for a boatie this Christmas, some new safety gear – especially a new lifejacket – is a sensible investment in a happy new year.

We are proud to announce a new partnership between MRNSW and leading Australian boating retailer BCF. With 29 stores across NSW, BCF is a name that is well known to our state's boaters and anglers. The company shares our commitment to enjoyable, safe and responsible boating. Shopping at BCF this Christmas – and throughout the year – means you can easily support the work of MRNSW at the same time. Customers can simply round up the value of their transactions to the dollar value they nominate and all proceeds will be donated to MRNSW.

We have been fortunate to enjoy the ongoing support of the State Government and the boating community and industry throughout 2012. We are grateful to the Government and boaters for their financial support. Thanks must go to NSW Roads and Maritime Services and the Boating Industry Association for their backing, particularly in providing us with 92 vest-style lifejackets for the safety kits supplied with each of the 46 boat, motor and trailer packages we are raffling in our major summer fundraising campaign.

I would also like to thank the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia's Safety of Life at Sea Trusts for their generosity, providing us with a grant for \$36,400 to boost marine safety along the coastline by upgrading our VHF DSC radio infrastructure. Our Kioloa, Crowdy Harrington, Lemon Tree Passage and Norah Head units also have been successful in receiving Commonwealth grants totalling \$14,824 for small but valuable equipment.

So to return to Mr Lennon, what have we done in 2012? Looking back, it's been a remarkably busy year and we have achieved a great deal together. As ever, our members have put boundless energy into keeping boaters safe on our waters, whether as boat crew or radio operators. They've also worked hard to promote boating safety and raise funds to support our work. This all takes time and commitment.

Our new Alpine Lakes unit received its State Rescue Board pre-accreditation in November. It's now full steam ahead over the next year as the inaugural members complete their training, recruit more members and work towards establishing a home base, ahead of their full accreditation.

At an organisational level we

“Our volunteers deserve our praise and gratitude for their hard work every week of the year.”

have introduced new policies, such as the mandatory lifejacket rule, tightened our corporate governance and implemented measures to help us meet our financial obligations. I thank the members for accepting, by and large, decisions which were tough but necessary. Fourteen new and refurbished vessels were delivered in 2011/12 and we are investing another \$2.5 million in more boats this financial year. We also have overhauled and upgraded

our IT and training systems.

And the year ahead? It is sure to be busier again. Planned projects include bringing the new membership management system online, integrating this with a new statistical reporting module and the Training Management System, redeveloping the vessel tracking system and communications upgrades. This work is all directed at making it easier for our volunteers to carry out their roles and providing our units with safe, reliable vessels, recognised professional training and management support.

The Chair and Directors have supported the reforms and directions we have taken this year. I am grateful for their solidity and look forward to working with the new Board, once it is decided through the new Greater Sydney election, in 2013. Our staff deserve acknowledgment for always working above and beyond what I could ask of them.

In closing, let me wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. Let's hope it's a good one. If you're out relaxing on your boat, spare a friendly word for our volunteers, who will be sacrificing time with their families and friends to keep watch over the waters

during the holiday season. Our volunteers, and particularly their unit executives, deserve our praise and gratitude for their hard work each and every week of the year and their steadfast commitment to saving lives on the water. MRNSW would not exist but for their good will and ongoing service.

Please, this summer wear your lifejackets and stay safe on the water.

Stacey Tannos ESM
Commissioner

Royal patron thanks our volunteers

MRNSW vessels escort Prince, Duchess on harbour crossing.

Marine Rescue NSW Patron in Chief, the Prince of Wales, made sure he took the time to meet our members during his visit to Sydney last month.

Seven representatives of MRNSW were among more than 100 emergency services personnel invited to a relaxed lunchtime event at Bondi Icebergs during the Prince's one-day stop in the city.

The emergency services were recognised for their commitment to "Service to the community", the theme of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

MRNSW was again front and centre later in the afternoon when the Prince and Duchess of Cornwall made their way from Admiralty House across Sydney Harbour to a glittering reception at the Opera House.

The Royal Australian Navy Admiral's Barge ferrying the royal couple across the harbour was accompanied by vessels from Marine Rescue Middle Harbour and Port Jackson.

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell welcomed the Prince to the Bondi event.

"You'll soon meet some of the finest representatives of the emergency services anywhere in the world," he said.

Pat Schwinghammer from MR Port Kembla, Marguerite Mason from MR Terrey Hills, Jonathon Bensley from MR Cottage Point and George Patterson from MR Broken Bay joined Commissioner Stacey Tannos, Chair Jim Glissan and Director Mike Stringer at the function.

Commissioner Tannos said the Prince had been "very interested to



The Prince of Wales chats to Pat Schwinghammer about her work as a Radio Operator at Marine Rescue Port Kembla.

meet our volunteers and to ask about our work on the water".

Ms Schwinghammer said the Prince had asked about her work with MRNSW and being named the 2012 Pride of the Illawarra Marine Rescue NSW Volunteer of the Year.

"He was very pleasant and friendly. He had a lot of people to meet and he was very interested."

She said she was blown away to be invited and to meet the Prince. "That doesn't happen to everybody, does it? I was quite thrilled."

HELLA LED. The seafaring light.

With low current draw, high efficiency. HELLA Marine LED is perfectly matched to boating.

Fit and Forget.

HELLA Australia Pty Ltd
HELLA Customer Service: 1800 061 729
custservice@ha.hella.com
www.hella.com.au



Hella marine

From the Chairman

Elections prove our democratic process hale and hearty.



Chairman,
James Glissan QC

The recent Board elections have confirmed the vibrancy of our organisation and the commitment of our members.

As a result of the election, we have seen a change to the Board and other members returned.

While it is with regret that we see Bill Carter leave, it is with real pleasure that I am able to welcome Doug Musker to the Board for the next two years. I look forward to the opportunity to work closely with him and to put his skill and experience to good use in the interests of MRNSW.

The health of the democratic process was clearly reflected in the election in Greater Sydney, where the two candidates, Victor Lawrence and Bob Wilson, tied the vote.

A second ballot has been called to resolve the impasse between these two highly regarded senior members. We can be assured that whatever the outcome, the incoming board member will add lustre to the Board and work tirelessly for the good of us all.

I cannot see Bill Carter leave the Board without paying tribute to his commitment, practicality and long-term dedication to MRNSW. Bill was a member of the original Facilitation Committee and a founding director

of MRNSW, as well as the Unit Commander of MR Shoalhaven.

His work over a full 12 months on the Service Delivery Model, which involved visiting every unit in the state and has since informed our relationship with the State Rescue Board and the strategic development of our fleet, bases and radio network, could only have been achieved by someone of his long experience and significant abilities.

I am sure that although no longer a Director, he will continue to be a major contributor to the development of MRNSW in the next decade. He was a hard-working Board member and remains a close personal friend.

While the democratic process remains healthy, some of our people have not been so fortunate. Director Mike Stringer and our Chief Financial Officer Alan Skelley have suffered recent illness. Happily, both seem to be on the mend and have resumed their arduous duties. I hope to have their counsel and assistance for a long time to come.

We have appointed a new State Training Manager, Regina Dunlea, who in a short time has revitalised training, reformed and simplified the systems and engendered a great deal

of optimism about the future health of the MRNSW Registered Training Organisation. I am very pleased to be able to welcome Regina to the MRNSW family and commend her to you all.

On a sour note, the Mid North Coast SAREX over the last weekend in November had to be considerably scaled back after one of our RHIBs, *Woolli 30*, a Fisheries RHIB and the NSW Police launch *Fearless* were all the subject of a vicious act of vandalism. (See story Page 8.)

I deplore the conduct. I am always unable to comprehend the motivation of any person who willfully damages property used for the protection of the community. Although we are protected by insurance, the loss of a valuable asset at this time of the year adds unnecessary strain to the unit.

Sadly, we have lost a number of members recently, including respected Life Members John Thompson and Jack James.

Finally, let me wish all of you a happy Christmas, a prosperous and healthy New Year and a quiet but rewarding time on the water, with successful rescues and safe voyaging.

Good sailing
Jim Glissan

SOLAS grant to upgrade radio coverage

Project will boost VHF DSC infrastructure along the NSW coastline.

MRNSW will improve its VHF Digital Selective Calling (DSC) radio coverage along the NSW coastline under a new \$36,400 project to boost marine safety.

The project is being funded through a generous grant from the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia Sydney Hobart Yacht Race Safety of Life at Sea Trusts.

Deputy Commissioner Heinz Mueller said the project would improve the VHF DSC infrastructure at the 15 MRNSW Search and

Rescue Coordination Centres (SARCC) along the NSW coastline and the central Sydney communications base at Terrey Hills.

"This radio technology, a valuable development in allowing boaters to summon help quickly with the single push of a button, is increasingly being used by the recreational boating community, in addition to its use in the shipping industry," he said.

"The installation of the new high-performance radio equipment in our SARCC radio rooms will greatly

enhance our DSC radio coverage for sailors and boaters.

"The use of this commercial standard equipment and the sensitivity and reliability it offers, will provide those at sea with a greater level of assurance that their distress signal will be detected and a rescue operation rapidly activated in the case of an emergency."

CYCA SOLAS Ltd Chairman Matt Allen announced the grant, which follows funding of \$45,500 provided in 2011 towards the installation

of a VHF repeater on Cambewarra Mountain and upgrading the Eden radio base.

"We sincerely hope the grant ... allows your organisation the opportunity to continue to provide the vital service required to cover the enormous area that falls under your responsibility," Mr Allen said.

Deputy Commissioner Mueller said MRNSW was grateful for the ongoing support of the Trusts and looked forward to continuing to work with the Trust and yachting community.

Tie leads to new poll for Sydney director

New face joins the Board to represent Illawarra members.

A fresh election is being held for the MRNSW Greater Sydney Regional Director after last month's poll resulted in a hung vote.

The results of the 2012 elections were announced at the third Annual General Meeting, held in Sydney on November 24. Mr Tony Drover, from Marine Rescue Jervis Bay, was re-elected as a General Director.

Mr Douglas Musker, from Marine Rescue Ulladulla, was elected as the Illawarra Regional Director, replacing Mr Bill Carter, from Marine Rescue Shoalhaven. Incumbent Monaro Regional Director, Mr Howard Staples, from Marine Rescue Batemans Bay, was elected unopposed.

The Board resolved that a new election would be held for a Greater Sydney Regional Director after the vote was tied between the two

candidates: the incumbent, Mr Robert (Bob) Wilson, from Marine Rescue Botany Bay and Mr Victor Lawrence, from Marine Rescue Broken Bay. Polls close on December 21.

Mr Glissan welcomed Mr Musker to the Board and paid tribute to Mr Carter, an original Director of Marine Rescue NSW and a member of the Facilitation Committee charged with guiding the establishment of the new organisation in 2009.

"Bill has always worked hard and unhesitatingly for the benefit of the company. He has done a sterling job as a Director. He will always be welcome in any unit meeting and any member of MRNSW would do well to take his advice," he said.

Mr Glissan said the organisation's outstanding achievement had been "the coalescence of what had been



Andrew Griffiths, from MRNSW auditor Grant Thornton Australia (front) and members at the Annual General Meeting in Sydney last month.

competing organisations into a seamless whole".

The Commissioner outlined a number of important projects planned for the year ahead, including

replacing the electronic membership management system, a new statistical reporting system, redeveloping the vessel tracking system and communications upgrades.

Uniform Solutions ...made easy



About Bisley Corporate

Bisley Corporate provides a complete uniform sourcing & supply chain solution.

We pride ourselves on our customer focused approach, understanding that no two customers are the same.

This approach combined with innovative service support technologies, ensures we consistently provide our customers with high quality garments at very competitive pricing.



www.bisleycorporate.com.au

3 - 7 McPherson Street Banksmeadow NSW 2019
Ph: 61 2 9316 2800 Fax: 61 2 9316 4865

New partnership helps keep service strong

BCF customers can support our volunteers' life-saving work at any NSW store.

Customers of leading boating retailer BCF can now easily support the life-saving work of Marine Rescue NSW with any purchase they make in the company's 29 stores throughout the State.

A new partnership between BCF and MRNSW, launched this month, will channel much-needed donations to MRNSW.

MRNSW Patron, solo round-the-world sailor and the power behind Clean Up Australia, Mr Ian Kiernan AO, joined MRNSW Commissioner Stacey Tannos and BCF marketing manager Ben McConnell in welcoming the partnership.

Mr Kiernan said recreational boating was one of this State's most popular pastimes but a little-known outcome of this popularity was that MRNSW received more than 3000

distress calls and rescued about 7000 boaters each year.

"Seemingly simple situations on the water can turn dangerous very quickly," he said.

"Marine Rescue's 3200 volunteers donate their time to assist the boating community in times of need but maintaining and operating a fleet of 74 rescue boats and 46 rescue and radio communications bases requires millions of dollars each year."

The Hardie family from Canberra knows the dangers of the water all too well, with grandfather Robert, his son Luke and eight-year-old grandson Jake recently finding themselves in trouble after their boat broke down while fishing offshore.

As a member of the radio club at Marine Rescue Ulladulla, Mr Hardie snr is well versed in marine safety

protocol and acted swiftly, alerting the local rescue team and triggering a speedy rescue before events could spiral out of control.

"I immediately sent a radio call for help. The Marine Rescue crew responded right away and the three of us are here to tell the tale thanks to their quick and professional action," he said.

Commissioner Tannos said: "We are grateful for the funding we receive from the State Government and boating community but also rely on funding from our supporters, both individuals and businesses, to help keep us on the water.

"The generous support of BCF and its customers will help ensure we remain a strong, well-resourced emergency service ready to save lives on the water."

Mr McConnell said shoppers across NSW could now donate to MRNSW in-store by rounding up their transaction to the dollar value of their choice – with the additional amount going direct to MRNSW, a registered charity.

"At BCF, we have a history of supporting marine rescue organisations and place huge value on their role in the community," he said.

"In the past 18 months alone, we've raised a quarter of a million dollars nationally for Coast Guard with the help of customers' donations and hope to do the same for MRNSW this year."



Australia's Largest Specialist Inflatable Boat Service Centre

Rigid Hull inflatables and Replacement Inflatable Collars

quality (DuPont)

Hypalon fabric with 10 year guarantee



Over 30 years of experience in the Australian Inflatable Boat Industry!

Huskisson | 02 4441 8108

Marine expo a first for Sydney

MRNSW joins boating safety program

Marine Rescue NSW will take part in Australia's first international marine conference and exhibition, Marine13, in Sydney in April.

Focusing on the recreational and light commercial marine sectors, the event is expected to attract more than 500 delegates and 70 exhibitors, bringing together members of the marina and boating industries, government agencies and boating safety advocates.

Commissioner Stacey Tannos said a presentation on MRNSW and its volunteers' work would be part of the conference's boating safety program.

"Our volunteers respond to thousands of incidents on the water every year, many of which could be prevented if boaters were more mindful of their safety," he said.

"This is a valuable opportunity for us to speak directly to industry leaders



Adventurer and Marine13 keynote speaker, businesswoman and author Catherine De Vrye.

and advocates about the need to promote safe behaviour and safety products such as life jackets, EPIRBs and marine radios to boaters."

Marine13 keynote speaker will be businesswoman, author and adventurer Catherine De Vrye. A former Australian Executive Woman of the Year, she has international business and government experience and has cycled the Andes, trekked to Timbuktu and climbed in Antarctica.

legendary performance traditional quality

JN Taylor & Co. Pty Ltd.

SPECIALIST MARINE SUPPLIERS

We
take
the
search
out of
search
and
rescue

Search and rescue requires 100% effort and that is why leading SAR authorities and Water Police around the world rely on Furuno navigation equipment.



FLIR
Thermal Imaging



Furuno NavNet 3D

Multi Function has never been easier! Simple operation on single or dual station daylight bright displays is the key to success. Take full control of the situation with all navigation information and control shared between Navigator and Skipper makes for easy team work in the most demanding situations.



Furuno NavNet vx2

When it comes to performance and reliability, Furuno's award winning NavNet vx2 is in a class of its own. Single or dual station with radar, plotter, AIS, autopilot and many more advanced features ensures safe and reliable navigation.



FLIR Thermal Imaging

www.jntaylor.com.au

or call West Coast (08) 9494 9393 East Coast (07) 3900 2100

FURUNO

Vandalism of Woolli vessel condemned

Potentially life threatening act of senseless stupidity: Commissioner.

Marine Rescue Woolli's new offshore rescue vessel is expected back on the water before Christmas after being damaged by mindless vandals during a Mid North Coast Search and Rescue Exercise last month.

Commissioner Stacey Tannos condemned the vandalism, which caused an estimated \$50,000 in damage and reduced vital rescue resources on the Mid North Coast at the start of the peak boating season.

The Naiad's sponsons – air-filled buoyancy tubes – were slashed all the way around the vessel. A NSW Fisheries boat and the NSW Police Force vessel *Fearless* also were targeted by the vandals.

The \$345,000 offshore rescue vessel, delivered at Easter, was one of four Marine Rescue vessels gathered

at Coffs Harbour for the regional SAREX in late November.

"Members of Marine Rescue NSW are all volunteers. They give their time to protect the community by helping boaters in trouble on the water," Commissioner Tannos said.

"They deserve nothing but our thanks and support but this vandalism is just a slap in the face in return for their selfless commitment."

While a vessel from MR Iluka-Yamba was deployed to Woolli as an interim measure, the Naiad's builder, Yamba Welding & Engineering, was able to quickly source replacement tubes and aimed to complete the repairs within a fortnight.

"The Mid North Coast and Northern Rivers are among the State's most popular summer boating playgrounds and it is vital that our rescue



Woolli 30 ... off the water after being attacked by vandals during the Mid North Coast SAREX.

crews are trained and equipped to respond immediately when needed," Commissioner Tannos said.

"This is a potentially life-threatening act of senseless stupidity. As well as taking a vital safety resource off the

water, it wasted public resources by forcing the SAREX to be scaled back.

"These exercises are an integral part of our members' on-water training and this disruption was disappointing to them."

 survitecgroup

ISO9650-1 COASTAL LIFERAFT

- ISO9650-1 APPROVED LIFERAFT
- UNIQUE HI-VIS COLOUR
- EXTENDED SERVICE INTERVAL
- EASY ACCESS BOARDING RAMP
- FULLY APPROVED TO MEET NMSC COASTAL SPECIFICATIONS
- FITTED WITH EPIRB FOR NMSC REQUIREMENTS
- VACUUM PACKED



RFD

Check us out online and view the complete RFD product range.

www.rfd.com.au
1800 646 086

John Aldridge

SAR and Training Systems Officer, Port Kembla



John Aldridge has trained more 500 radio operators, who monitor the airwaves and support rescue operations from their Hill 60 SARCC.

A veteran volunteer, John, 82, joined the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association Port Kembla Hill 60 Communications Flotilla in 1993. He served as Training Officer, Flotilla Commander, Squadron Training Commodore and NSW State Training Commodore before in 2011 joining Marine Rescue Port Kembla, where he is now Training Systems Officer.

The biggest change in my time has been a move to greater professionalism. We've become a Registered Training Organisation working to national competency standards, whereas before we had internal standards within units. The public expects us to be professional – they think we're a government organisation and they're surprised when they find out we're volunteers.

Though we at Hill 60 are a SARCC (Search and Rescue Coordination Centre) and operate 24/7, we find the majority of our work could be described as organising NRMA-type jobs – tows and assists due to mechanical breakdowns and flat batteries because of lack of service.

Contributing is everything – that's the key to my longevity. I've taken an active interest in training. That really gets you involved. I would have personally delivered Radio Operator training to more than 500 people.

In the future I'd like to see MRNSW expand on inland waters and develop online training using e-learning resources so that members can train at times that suit themselves.

My tip for being a good radio operator is the ability to prioritise, paying attention and writing down what you hear. You have to be able to filter out what is important because people will talk over each other. We often have four or five radios going at the same time.

No matter what their experience has been, new members have to be able to accept the training regime – it's not just messing about in boats.

One of my most memorable times in the organisation was serving as a crewman on one of the Coast Guard crowd control vessels over the two weeks of the 2000 Olympics.

Looking for cheap spare parts and accessories?

Hunts Marine is Australia's largest supplier of genuine spare parts for Yamaha, Johnson, Mercury, Mariner and Mercruiser. All trade and retail enquiries welcome. Fast, reliable overnight delivery.

Our huge boating accessory supermarket has a great range of electronics, safety gear, deck hardware, sail fittings, trailer parts, polishes, ropes, paints and more.

Visit us online www.huntsmarine.com.au

Sydney: Service and Spares: 259 West Street Carlton
Showroom: 629 Princes Highway Blakehurst
Ph: 02 9546 1324 Open 7 days
Wollongong: 434 Princes Highway Corimal
Ph: 02 4284 0444 Open 6 days
Batemans Bay: 2 Kylie Crescent Batemans Bay
Ph: 02 4472 2612 Open 6 days





Way of Life!

**NEW
RELEASE
ENGINES:**



outstanding efficiency going fast!

NEW DF140A/115A/100A: Maximum Performance Maximum Efficiency

**Advanced Performance Delivering
Outstanding Acceleration and Top-End Speed**

- **Innovative Lean Burn Control System:** This system allows the engine to run on more efficient fuel mixture - fuel economy has improved up to 14% on the previous models
- **NEW lighter build:** The new DF140A is 7kgs lighter than the previous model
- **No compromise on power:** New larger displacement on DF100A and DF115A models
- **Multi-point Sequential EFI:** Suzuki's sophisticated fuel injection system for producing smoother and faster acceleration and crisp throttle response



LEAN BURN

5
YEAR
WARRANTY
(ON ALL MODELS ONLY)

1300 300 550
suzukimarine.com.au

SUZUKI
MARINE
WORLD'S BEST 4-STROKE

New campaign focuses on lifejacket safety

It won't ruin your day on the water but it could save your life.

A tragic spate of drownings in NSW waters in recent months has again pointed to the need for boaters, anglers and others taking to the water to wear lifejackets.

MRNSW Commissioner Stacey Tannos has again appealed to boaters to always wear their lifejackets when on board.

"It's the simplest thing you can do to help save your life in an emergency. Even if you do nothing else at all, just make sure you and everyone on board wear a lifejacket," he said.

"Thousands of people will be out on the water over summer and it's horrible to think that some of them might not come home simply because they couldn't be bothered, were too proud or just didn't think to put on their lifejackets."

The NSW Government has

launched a major new safety awareness campaign – supported by MRNSW – in time for the summer boating season to encourage recreational boat owners to wear lifejackets whenever they are out on the water.

The campaign's message is "a lifejacket never ruined a day on the water". The focus is on letting boaties and fisherman, especially men skippering vessels under 6m long, know there's a style of lifejacket to suit everyone and highlighting the importance of actually wearing them, rather than having them stowed away.

The Office of Boating Safety and Maritime Affairs reports that in the year to June, 19 people died on NSW waterways – 11 of these deaths were due to drowning and not one was wearing a lifejacket.



Make sure everyone on board is wearing a lifejacket whenever you're out on the water.

From September 16 to October 17 there were another nine boating fatalities in NSW and the drowning toll has continued to rise since.

No one knows better than MRNSW crews that no amount of experience or swimming ability can save you if you are unconscious, in

cold shock or being dragged to the bottom by clothes.

Over the past three months, crews from Sussex Inlet, Shoalhaven, Alpine Lakes, Woolgoolga, Coffs Harbour, Wooli and Botany Bay have joined searches for people who drowned while boating, swimming or diving.

Visit lifejacketwearit.com.au

An advertisement for Marine Rescue. It features a large image of a white and red rescue boat with 'RESCUE' written on its side, moving across the water. In the foreground, a large red and white lifebuoy is visible, with the text 'ROUND UP YOUR PURCHASE TODAY' written across it. Below the lifebuoy, there are logos for 'MARINE RESCUE' and 'BCF'. At the bottom, it says 'Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.'

Get on board and help support our Marine Rescue volunteers.

ROUND UP YOUR PURCHASE TODAY

MARINE RESCUE

BCF

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Karera

Radio
Communications
Solutions



- ◆ Marine Radios (HF, VHF and UHF)
- ◆ Antennas and accessories
- ◆ Navigation, GPS and Vessel Tracking
- ◆ EPIRBS and Safety Beacons
- ◆ Eflares ◆ Equipment Servicing

With years of marine radio experience, we can help you choose the right equipment for your situation and provide through-life maintenance for reliable, dependable operation. If you need practical advice, quality workmanship and excellent service, you can rely on Karera.

- ◆ Fully equipped workshop and experienced technical staff for radio servicing & repairs.
- ◆ Engineering staff to help you create solutions specific to your needs.
- ◆ Trusted suppliers to Marine Rescue NSW.



 **02 4355 1599**

2 / 49 Gavenlock Road TUGGERAH NSW 2259



www.karera.com Visit our new website!
Or email us for a quote. sales@karera.com

PROUD TO SUPPORT MARINE RESCUE NEW SOUTH WALES

What we've been up to



They don't usually operate under sail but that didn't stop the MR Lake Macquarie team racing to a creditable fifth place in November's NSW Police and Emergency Services Sailing Regatta. Roland Bennett, Gail and Neil McBurnie, Phil Hart and David Merritt joined unit radio operator and veteran of 42 Sydney to Hobart races Bill Ratcliff on board his Moody 38, Wistarie. Photo: Jim Wright



NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell (right) introduces the Prince of Wales to MRNSW Director Mike Stringer, Commissioner Stacey Tannos, Broken Bay UC George Patterson and Chair Jim Glissan.



The atmosphere is relaxed as the Prince shares a joke with our party at the informal emergency services reception, cut short when a ferocious storm swept over Bondi.



NSW Police Marine Area Commander A/Asst Comm Mark Hutchings, Supt Craig Sheridan, Asst Comm Alan Clarke and MRNSW Commissioner Stacey Tannos disembark Nemesis at the Pt Danger SAREX.

Point Danger hosts State's largest SAREX

Spectacular search plane flyover draws crowd to border.

More than 100 emergency services personnel, including 60 Marine Rescue volunteers, gathered on the NSW/Queensland border last month for the largest Search and Rescue (SAREX) ever held in NSW.

A large crowd gathered to witness a spectacular low-level flyover and emergency supply drop 300m off the Tweed coastline by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority's Dornier search plane.

The Northern Rivers SAREX brought together state and national emergency services personnel and resources from NSW, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and the ACT, including representatives of the Australian Search and Rescue Council.

NSW Police Force Marine Area Commander Acting Assistant

Commissioner Mark Hutchings and MRNSW Commissioner Stacey Tannos welcomed the chance to foster greater agency collaboration

"The Tweed Heads SAREX is a great opportunity for our Marine Area Command to work with Queensland Water Police and our marine search and rescue colleagues in preparation for the busy summer months," A/Asst Comm Hutchings said.

Commissioner Tannos said exercises such as the SAREX were crucial to testing agencies' familiarity with marine search and rescue procedures, protocols and capabilities.

Volunteers from Marine Rescue Point Danger, Brunswick, Ballina, Evans Head, Iluka-Yamba and Wooli were joined by their colleagues from Volunteer Marine Rescue Queensland



The ocean doesn't recognise state borders... Queensland Police Sergeant Tony Nelson joins NSW volunteers Bill Blundell, Jo Blundell and Tony Hensley to plot a search pattern at the Northern Rivers SAREX.

Currumbin, Southport and Jacobs Well and the Kingscliff Coast Guard

Air and sea resources included the Dornier aircraft, Westpac, Queensland Surf Life Saving and Navy choppers, seven volunteer vessels and NSW and

Queensland police vessels.

The first day's tutorials were followed on day two by the Dornier flyover and a search for two "missing persons" in strong currents in the water north of Cook Island.

Stephen Reading

2nd NAIAD FOR MARINE RESCUE BY YWE



Yamba Welding & Engineering Pty Ltd launched the new 9.5m Naiad Rescue Vessel for Marine Rescue NSW Brunswick BR30 in October 2012.

This Naiad aluminium vessel marks the 8th vessel (and second for Marine Rescue) built by Yamba Welding since gaining the licence to build exclusively for Naiad Design in early 2011. The workshop currently has 5 more Naiad's under construction.

BR30 is powered by twin 250hp Mercury Verado Outboard motors and is fully equipped for search and rescue duties with three radio communication systems, radar, AIS, thermal imaging camera for night vision, radio direction finder to home in on EPIRB signals, the latest navigation systems and a solar power system to ensure the four batteries are always fully charged to power the electronic equipment.



YAMBA WELDING & ENGINEERING Pty Ltd

4 Angourie Rd, Yamba NSW 2464 | T: 02 6646 2421 | E: info@ywe.com.au

Vessel an asset for North Coast boaters

Brunswick welcomes new Naiad.



Doug Manning and Robin Burgess were among the first members of Marine Rescue Brunswick to welcome home their new Naiad after she crossed the Brunswick bar. Photo: Kate O'Neill, Byron Shire News.

Marine Rescue Brunswick is celebrating the arrival of its new \$340,000 Naiad, replacing the unit's 12-year-old rescue vessel.

Brunswick 30 (BR 30) was delivered in the first week of November, much to the delight of unit members, who gathered at the Boat Harbour to greet the delivery crew after they crossed the Brunswick River bar.

The 9.5m vessel, built by Yamba Welding and Engineering (YWE), is powered by twin 250hp Mercury Verado engines and can reach

equipment, which will make us more effective than before," he said.

He said *BR 30* gave the unit better coverage as the previous vessel was only registered to travel 7nm out to sea.

The vessel is the second Naiad from YWE to join the Marine Rescue fleet this year. Configured for a crew of three, it was delivered home by Brunswick Deputy Unit Commander and senior skipper Lazlo Szabo, trainee skipper Lance Burger and Wooli

"This is a faster response vessel, with much more sophisticated equipment."

speeds above 40 knots. Electronics fitted on board include radar, radio direction finder and an Automatic Identification System.

Unit Commander Owen Danvers told local media the boat was an enormous asset to Brunswick Heads, the general boating community, surfers and anyone on the water from Hastings Point in the north to Lennox Head in the south and 15nm out to sea.

"This is a faster response vessel, with much more sophisticated

member Richard Taffs.

"The trip up was excellent. We made good time. We even had time to stop in Ballina for a cuppa," Lance told the *Echonetdaily*.

"I was the skipper and Richard was the master of the vessel today. It was fun but it is also a big learning curve compared to our old vessel."

The unit is planning a February commissioning ceremony for the vessel, which is stored on an air berth on the boat harbour.

Intuitive Communications

NEW



Introducing the new additions to the Icom fleet. The IC-M91D and IC-M423 both feature a new straight-forward menu system, making operation a breeze.

IC-M423

Fixed-Mount VHF. Optional remote speaker/microphone available.

IC-M91D

5W VHF Handheld with GPS & DSC.



Discover why Icom is the perfect choice for reliable marine communications. Email our Marine Product Manager via marine@icom.net.au

www.icom.net.au

ICOM 664

New exhibits draw crowds to Ballina boat show

Unit thanks many sponsors for their generous support.

Perfect weather and a range of new exhibitors attracted a large crowd of visitors to the third Marine Rescue Ballina Boat and Leisure Show over the Labour Day long weekend.

The Show drew in 3300 people over two days – a 50 per cent increase on last year's event, held in inclement conditions.

Water sports enthusiasts were well catered for with recreational boats, bait and fishing supplies, wild water sports, canoes, kayaks, houseboats and a dragon boat on display.

Exhibitors catering for other interests added an exciting new dimension, including camping and caravans, caravan parks, audio systems, auto accessories, barbecues and outdoor living products.

Children were entertained by Ballina's own Bernice the Blue Dragon, the Prime Possum, a steam train and face painting.

Ballina members are proud of our relationship with our local community, including the business sector. We acknowledge the support of our sponsors, Newcastle Permanent Building Society, Altex Coatings, Ballina Shire Council, Ballina Lions Club, *The Northern Star*, Paradise FM, Prime 7 Northern, Pristine Publications, 2LM and ZZZFM.

With the support of other sponsors, we were able to hand out Marine Rescue giveaway bags at our show site, where the public could speak to our volunteers about our operations, radios, general boating, boat licensing and other training we offer.



Bernice the Blue Dragon and a cheery fairy meet Marine Rescue members Lorraine Leuckel and Judi Hughes at the Ballina Boat and Leisure Show.

With donated prizes, \$5000 was raised from the raffle and an auction at the North Coast Fishing Bonanza.

Thanks to the show committee, Duncan Woodhead, Judi Hughes, Val

Gilmore and Ken Delaney, fundraiser Di Lannoy and unit members who gave 5000 hours to bring the event to fruition.

Jo Hurley

BCF™

Christmas DON'T OVERTHINK IT!

You spend as much as you want

They get exactly what they want

GET THE PERFECT PREZZIE!

You can't make a mistake

This is living

BCF™
BOATING • CAMPING • FISHING

Coffs takes lead in tournament sail past

New CR 2 engines show plenty of grunt.



Marine Rescue Coffs Harbour leads the competitors around the harbour in the Hot Current Game Fishing Tournament sail past.

Marine Rescue Coffs Harbour played a leading role in the annual Hot Current Game Fishing Tournament, a major drawcard for anglers from around Australia, last month.

Now in its 20th year, the tournament is hosted by the Coffs Harbour Game Fishing Club.

The event began on November 10 with a sail past of competing vessels led around the harbour and out through the entrance by *Coffs Rescue 2 (CR 2)* and the Coffs Harbour Water Police launch *Fearless*.

Our training room also was set up by the tournament organisers with radios to monitor their radio traffic.

It's been a hectic time at the base, with several of our executive and other members overseas. We have been very pleased to welcome them back!

CR 2 has been slipped for extensive maintenance, including replacing the motors with twin Yamaha 225 four-stroke engines. This put a hole in our savings and we would like to thank MRNSW Headquarters for giving us a short-term loan so we did not have to break our term deposit.

The new engines were almost immediately put to the test with a long tow in from 10nm east of Coffs

Harbour in reasonable conditions, performing extremely well with plenty of "grunt".

CR 2 was then involved in several assists during October, including a becalmed yacht and another stranded on rocks. It also provided water safety for the Sapphire to Coffs Harbour Paddle Against Poverty, involving a large group of paddlers on various types of craft.

Our rescue crews joined Marine Area Command, Marine Rescue Woolgoolga and Woolli and Surf Life Saving crews in an unsuccessful two-day sea search for a person missing off Woolgoolga headland. Although this search was inconclusive, it was an excellent opportunity to test the cooperation needed for operations such as this in the future.

During the school holidays, a number of children who had gone to sea on kayaks and a surf ski but without lifejackets were unable to return to shore due to a powerful current and strong headwinds.

Luckily, a member of the public noted that they had not returned to the beach and were rapidly drifting south, reporting their dilemma to our radio officer, who alerted police. *Fearless* was despatched to return the chastened adventurers to safety.

Alison Bowling

GETS YOU
THERE QUICKLY



GETS YOU
BACK SAFELY

Why Kevlacat? Because we use kevlar in our high performance catamarans. Think bullet proof vests, this material is stronger than fibreglass and makes our boats lighter and stronger than our competition. Weight savings mean the ability to use less H.P. achieving better fuel economy and making towing easier.

There is so much more to a Kevlacat. So if you're interested in owning a world class boat that's used by Marine Rescue NSW, Coastguards and Water Police or for just plain fun and fishing, visit www.kevlacat.com.au.



KEVLACAT
POWER BOATS AUSTRALIA
GETS YOU THERE • GETS YOU BACK



Commissioning a day for young and old Woolgoolga remembers its past at new boat christening.

The commissioning of the newest MRNSW rescue vessel on the Mid North Coast – *Woolgoolga 30 (WO 30)* – on Woolgoolga Beach was a memorable occasion.

On a hot early October day, we were joined by Commissioner Stacey Tannos, Deputy Commissioner Heinz Mueller, Board Director John Lynch, Regional Controller and our past Unit Commander John Murray and Coffs Harbour MP Andrew Fraser, representing Police and Emergency Services Minister Michael Gallacher.

Unit Commanders and members of all Mid North Coast units also attended, along with representatives of Surf Life Saving, Fire and Rescue NSW, the State Emergency Service and Rotary and Lions clubs.

Commissioner Tannos paid tribute to our volunteers for their commitment throughout the year. He

also acknowledged the support the State Government provides to assist Marine Rescue units in NSW.

Mr Lynch presented us with a defibrillator to carry on board *WO 30*, a \$337,000 9m vessel with Ellis alloy hull, fibreglass cabin and solid buoyant collars.

MR Woolgoolga has a proud history as a Volunteer Sea Rescue organisation and we invited a number of our ex-members to the commissioning, asking if they would like to take part in the ceremony. Dorothy Briggs and Marie Brooks accepted with vigour.

Chaplain David Simpson blessed the vessel, with our youngest member, 17-year-old Mitchell Harvey, carrying out the official naming before Dorothy and Marie showered *WO 30* with champagne.

After the ceremony, the crew took



Marie Brooks, Mitchell Harvey and Regional Controller John Murray look on as Dorothy Briggs officially christens Woolgoolga 30.

the vessel out to demonstrate a beach launch and retrieval.

Unfortunately, due to the erosion of our beach ramp caused by high tides and adverse weather and a problem with our trailer, the vessel became bogged in the sand. *WO 30* travelled to Coffs Harbour for safe

keeping until the ramp and trailer were fixed and we could bring her back home.

In spite of these challenges, it was a great day for all volunteers. We thank everyone who helped make it so memorable.

Cherrill Powell

A tough job but someone has to do it

Forster-Tuncurry unit has been having fun staging fundraising activities.

Members of Marine Rescue Forster-Tuncurry have been playing golf, going to the races and watching whales and movies lately.

It's all been for a good cause as our members have staged a range of fundraising activities and supported a number of local community events.

Thanks to Fundraising Officer Carol Parker and her team, our fundraising is going great guns. We are now in full swing with our boat-trailer-motor raffle.

More than 50 players took part in our first Charity Golf Day at Forster

now a well-respected festival.

Our barbecue team was firing at the Tuncurry Forster Jockey Club's Tuncurry Mile race day and at the Sugarloaf Point Lighthouse on International Lighthouse Day.

We also staged a popular whale watching cruise on the *Amaroo*, along with our usual Bunnings barbecue, monthly Tuncurry Markets and petrol raffle.

We are grateful for the support of Beach Street Seafood, at Forster, which held a charity day for us, donating 20 per cent of the price

“Thanks to Carol Parker and her team, our fundraising is really going great guns.”

Golf Club. It was a successful day and a good introduction to what we hope will be an annual event.

The sixth Forster Film Festival was held at our base on the breakwall over the October long weekend. It is

of every order to the unit. We also received donations after our barbecue team catered for the Australian Pig Dog Hunters Association annual meeting at Forster and for the assistance by 10 of our members



Forster-Tuncurry's Ross Christie and Unit Commander Dennis Travers with the unit's new gazebo donated by Concept Designs Tuncurry.

at the Forster Ultimate Triathlon. A huge vote of thanks also to Brian Perry of Concept Designs Tuncurry for donating a 4x4m fully sign-written gazebo.

Congratulations to five members who have received their five-year long service pins: Denise Parker, Lynn Lambert, Bruce Findlay, David Robinson and Tom Welch.

Our Training Officer Mike O'Halloran has been assisting Camden Haven radio operators with their training. Our boats, *Forster 30 (Amanda Lani)* and *Forster 10 (Lani II)* are in good condition thanks to Ray Mazurek and Gerard Crowe's commitment to maintaining them in A1 condition.

Dennis Travers



Safe summer boating

Every year sees more boats out on the state's waterways, with both experienced skippers and newcomers all keen to get their share of some of the world's best boating waters. Regrettably, the pleasures of boating can be spoiled when an accident happens that causes anything from a simple inconvenience to a devastating loss of life.

Almost all of these incidents will be unexpected and most are avoidable.

More than 486,000 people in NSW held a Boat or Personal Water Craft Driver's Licence as at June this year. They have access to more than 226,000 registered boats and PWCs and there are tens of thousands of other boats that don't have to be registered.

When you add family and friends on board as passengers, it is estimated that around 1.5 million people enjoy boating on NSW waters.

With so many people out and about, some of them are going to end up in trouble and in need of rescue or just a helping hand back to shore. Every year, Marine Rescue crews routinely assist up to 3000 vessels, with approximately 7000 men, women and children on board.

Marine Rescue members are recognised boating safety advocates and we have asked them for their advice on how you can stay safe on the water this summer – and what you should do in the unfortunate event of an emergency.

CHECK THE WEATHER BEFORE YOU GO

Always check weather forecasts. The Bureau of Meteorology website has a wealth of important information to keep skippers well informed about weather and sea conditions. Visit bom.gov.au/marine/index.shtm.

Roads and Maritime Services also offers free email boating weather



A full check of mandatory safety gear will lessen the risk of an emergency call-out.

alerts at maritime.nsw.gov.au/alerts/alert.html.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT CHECK

You can help to reduce the risk of an emergency by starting your summer with a full check of your equipment. For the latest list of mandatory safety equipment to be carried, visit maritime.nsw.gov.au/sbh/safety_equipment/safety_equipment.html.

Many items will be good to use year after year but some should be checked for use-by dates and to ensure they work as expected. Use the RMS online Alert Service to set up reminders of when your equipment needs attention: maritime.nsw.gov.au/alerts/alert.html. This simple, free service will also allow you to include an alert for the due date for other activities such as your mooring service, engine service, registration and licence renewals.

KEEP YOUR BATTERIES CHARGED

Many skippers have two batteries on their boats: one for the motor/s and the other for instruments, lights and entertainment. This helps ensure there's always a well-charged battery to start the

motor/s after a day out using fish finders, entertainment systems, marine radios and other electrical equipment. Skippers should always know how much power their batteries can deliver and how much power their equipment draws from them. With only one battery, this is even more important.

Marine batteries come in different sizes. A typical mid-range marine battery might have a capacity of 100 amp hours when fully charged. A typical VHF marine radio will draw only about 0.25 amps receiving (5.5 amps transmitting).

Keeping your radio on to listen during an eight-hour fishing trip will consume only 2 amp

hours of capacity from your battery (8 hours x 0.25amps = 2 amp hours). That's just two per cent of the capacity of a fully-charged 100 amp hour 12v marine battery and should have negligible effect on its capability to start your engines again.

Calculate what your electronic equipment will draw on your boat. If your battery or batteries can't handle that load in a typical day trip without draining, get them checked or replaced immediately. You must have adequate battery capacity and reliable batteries and you must have your battery charging circuit checked to ensure it is operating properly.

CMS CALLAGHANS MARINE SERVICES

- » SERVICING ALL DIESEL, PETROL & STERNDRIVES
- » REPOWER & REFIT SPECIALIST
- » ENGINEERING & FABRICATION
- » PROPULSION & STEERING SYSTEMS
- » ONBOARD SYSTEMS
- » SALES, SERVICE & PARTS for



- » ONLINE CHANDLERY: www.boatspares.com.au

Located @ Fenwicks Marina, 31 Brooklyn Rd, Brooklyn NSW 2083
P: 02 9985 7885 | F: 02 9985 7991
E: info@callaghansmarine.com.au | W: www.callaghansmarine.com.au

Safety strategies for serious emergencies

Knowing what to do may save a life.

In any serious, life-threatening emergency do everything you can to get help and keep the people on board safe. Use your marine radio, use your mobile phone, activate your

EPIRB, ensure everyone is wearing a lifejacket, set your anchor if it can reach the bottom, set up your V-sheet, use your flares and provide first aid if needed.

CALL FOR HELP ON YOUR MARINE RADIO

If you are in trouble and you need help call Marine Rescue on your radio. This is the fastest way to tell someone responsible that you need assistance. What's more, a marine radio call will be heard not only by the local Marine Rescue Unit in your area, but also by nearby boats if you're in trouble on the water. In a serious emergency a nearby boat could give help faster than Marine Rescue volunteers or police can reach you. Key points:

- Keep your marine radio on when you're on the water. Keep it tuned to Ch 16 if a VHF set, or Ch 88 if 27MHz. (See "Keep your batteries charged" page 19.)
- Practise using your radio. Every time you go out call your local Marine Rescue radio base for a radio

check when you're at your destination. That's where you'll need to call from if you have a problem so it's good sense to get that radio check each time you drop your anchor. (See "How to get a radio check" page 22.)

Life-threatening emergency

If your boat and the people on board are in grave and imminent danger and you require immediate assistance:

- Select VHF Ch. 16 or 27 MHz Ch. 88
- Say the word MAYDAY three times then
- Give your exact location. If possible use your GPS (or smart phone) to read out the latitude and longitude. (See "Where are you" page 22.)



Teach your family to use the marine radio in case of an emergency in which the skipper is injured.

- Tell us what is wrong (sinking, on fire etc)
- Tell us how many people you have on board
- Describe your boat (eg. 6m runabout, red hull, black bimini, etc)
- Tell us anything else you think we might need to know (boat registration, mobile number, abandoning ship, switching on EPIRB etc)
- Mobile phone on board? Call Triple Zero as well.

Remember to use the safety gear you have on board – put on lifejackets, deploy the V-Sheet so it can be seen by rescue boat/s and aircraft, have flares ready

to signal to other vessels or rescuers and have your life raft or other flotation device ready if you are sinking. Remember, lives have been saved by clinging to a floating esky or other coolers.

Non life-threatening emergency

If you have broken down, someone has suffered a non life-threatening injury or you need other help, call your local Marine Rescue base on VHF Ch. 16 or 27 MHz Ch. 88 and give your position (using GPS if possible – see page 22), describe the problem, advise how many people on board and a description of your boat.

WEAR LIFEJACKETS

Ensure everyone aboard is wearing a lifejacket. There is no reasonable or logical argument against this simple safety precaution.

Statistics from NSW Roads and Maritime Services show that between mid-1999 and December

2011, 221 people were killed in boating accidents in NSW.

Of these, 206 (93 per cent) were not wearing lifejackets. It is likely that some of those lost could have survived if they had been wearing one.

ACTIVATING YOUR EPIRB

Activate your EPIRB distress beacon (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon) and secure the lanyard to something that won't sink. Data from GME, Australia's largest manufacturer of emergency beacons, shows that the Australian Maritime and Safety Authority responded to 15 GME EPIRBs activated in emergencies in September and October.

Thousands of people over recent years owe their lives to activating their EPIRBs, summoning rescuers to find them.

GPS-capable EPIRBs have a location accuracy of 120m. Non-GPS EPIRBs have an accuracy of 5km. Which type do you have? And remember that some GPS EPIRBs only provide the initial position at



Of the 221 people killed in boating accidents between 1999 and 2011, 93 per cent were not wearing lifejackets.

the time of deployment. Many do not update positions, so subsequent

position fixes have to be made by triangulation.

DO NOT KEEP OLD BEACONS AS BACK-UPS.

Do you have the correct 406 MHz EPIRB distress beacon on your boat? The old 121.5 MHz version is no longer detected by satellite and since February 2010 is no longer licenced for use. You risk your life and the lives of others with you by thinking you can rely on that old technology.

If you don't have an EPIRB yet, suggest one to your favourite Santa.

If you do have a 406 MHz EPIRB, is its registration up to date? Beacon registration is FREE and valid for two years. Renewal can be done online at beacons.amsa.gov.au or by contacting 1800 406 406. If you acquired your 406 EPIRB in 2010, it is now due to be re-registered.

Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) are also becoming widely used by

boaters. Yachting Australia requires all crew on vessels in Category 1 and Category 2 ocean yacht races to carry a PLB when on deck. A PLB is not considered a substitute for the mandatory requirement of an EPIRB when travelling more than 2nm offshore but they are another safety device that will help locate an individual if lost at sea. They also need to be registered with AMSA.

Activating the EPIRB distress beacon has saved the lives of thousands of boaters.



USE FLARES TO ATTRACT ATTENTION

Ignite your flares when other vessels are in sight or when near to land. In NSW, boats on open waters are required to carry a minimum of two red flares (for night or day use) and two orange flares (for daylight use).

If you've ever seen a flare demonstration you'll know they last

only a relatively short time. Hand-held orange smoke flares burn for approximately 60 seconds and are visible from 1km (0.5nm) to 4km (2nm) depending on weather and wind.

Hand-held red flares burn for about 45 seconds and can be visible up to

10-12 km (5-6.5nm) at night and 4-6km (2-3nm) during the day. Red parachute rockets shoot to about 300m, burn for approximately 40 seconds and can be visible up to 15km (8nm) by day and 40km (21nm) at night.

Always point flares up and away

from you and your boat with an outstretched hand. Always hold a flare at the base – the body of the flare can get very hot but the base remains safe to hold.

Flares have a use-by date and should be replaced when due. Are your flares current?

USE A SOUND SIGNAL TO ATTRACT ATTENTION

When did you last check your sound signal? Mouth-operated signal devices such as whistles or trumpet-like horns should require no regular service other

than cleaning and testing.

Other devices that require filling with air or operate on compressed air canisters should be checked and refilled.

PROPELLER STRIKES

Injuries caused by propeller strike can be serious – even deadly. Yet these are preventable.

Spinning propellers are a hazard zone. Skippers should always ensure

that no part of any person comes near a spinning prop and check the stern to be sure it is clear of people before starting engines.

“PERSON OVERBOARD!”

What do you do when someone falls overboard? Everyone on the boat should look for the person in the water and point to where they are or were last seen – and keep pointing so the skipper can follow the direction. Throw a life ring, lifejacket or

other marker immediately.

The skipper should turn the boat and make for the person in the water taking care to come alongside them. Stop the engine/s and distribute the weight of those aboard to keep the vessel stable and enable the person to

be brought back on board. If the vessel is too unstable to bring them back over the side consider bringing them over the stern BUT ENSURE MOTORS ARE OFF.

Keep the person in the water away from propellers especially if outboard-

powered. Even when engines are put into neutral some propellers can keep spinning.

If you can't find the person overboard, stay in the area and immediately use your radio or phone to call for extra help.

FIRE

Fires on small boats are a fearful emergency. They can spread rapidly and generate intense, unbearable heat forcing you to abandon ship. It is far better to prevent fires than to have to fight them at sea.

Many fires or explosions occur immediately after refuelling. Common sense must be used and proper care and precautions taken. Some rod holders fitted to the coamings can look remarkably like fuel fillers. Mistaking the two could end up with your bilges full of fuel.

For detailed advice on a fire safety

checklist go to: maritime.nsw.gov.au/sbh/emergencies/fire.html.

Your fire extinguisher should be checked regularly (vessels in survey must have it done every six months). Keep calm. To use the fire extinguisher pull out the pin and aim the stream at the base of the flame. If the fire cannot be extinguished call for help and prepare to abandon ship. Do not use a water fire extinguisher on flammable liquids.

If a fire takes hold make a MAYDAY radio call and call Triple Zero before you abandon ship, if possible.



Care must be taken to prevent fires on board. Fortunately, no one was hurt in this trawler fire off Broom Head in 2011.

HYPOTHERMIA

Immersion in cold water can be a killer if hypothermia sets in. The human body's core temperature is normally 37°C. Hypothermia occurs when the core temperature falls below 35°C and one of the most rapid causes of this is being in cold water for a prolonged time.

While air temperatures on the NSW coast may reach as high as 40°C in summer months, water temperatures in harbours, rivers,

lakes and the open sea will be much lower. The sea surface temperature can reach 24° in January and February and drop to 17° in winter months. In alpine lakes it can be between 4°C and 10°C. The effects of cold water immersion can disable a person very quickly through cold water shock and then hypothermia.

The human body has systems that work to maintain the core temperature, even in extremely cold conditions, for a short time.

The life threatening danger is when the conditions, such as lengthy immersion in cold water, cause the body to lose more heat than it can generate.

First aid for hypothermia.

Remove wet clothing and wrap the patient in warm, dry clothing, towels or blankets. Use a space blanket if available (these should be a part of every boat's emergency kit). Use only gentle warmth including body heat. Allow patient to warm

gradually. Do not apply high heat such as an uncovered hot water bottle. Do not give alcohol.

The key to avoiding cold water immersion and hypothermia is to stay out of the water and be prepared by wearing a lifejacket in case you do go in. The old saying "one hand for the boat and one for yourself" is a wise reminder that it's easy to lose your balance on a boat so always keep a grip with at least one hand.

CARBON MONOXIDE

Carbon monoxide is a colourless, odourless, silent killer that is produced when any carbon-based

fuel is burned. The most common of these fuels associated with boats are petrol or diesel used in engines and propane/LPG

cooking equipment.

Good ventilation is essential. Carbon monoxide can enter a boat from rear exhausts and extra care

should be taken by people at the rear of the vessel when under way or when the vessel is stationary and engines are idling.

WHERE ARE YOU?

The most accurate way to find your position at sea is to read off the latitude and longitude from your GPS. No GPS? Do you have a smart phone? Most smart phones have an in-built GPS, so look there for the latitude and longitude.

How do you read off latitude and

longitude from the GPS or smart phone to a radio operator or rescuer on the other end of your phone? Easy. On the east coast of Australia, latitude is measured in Degrees, Minutes and Seconds South, eg a GPS reading of 33° 12' 24" S is 33 degrees, 12 minutes, 24 seconds South.

Sometimes this is expressed on a GPS with a decimal figure, eg 33° 12.4' S (33 degrees 12 decimal 4 minutes South). On the east coast of Australia, longitude is expressed as Degrees, Minutes and Seconds East and follows the same format as latitude.

If you aren't sure where you are,

don't guess. Use your GPS.

What if you don't have a GPS on board and you don't have a smart phone? When boating offshore you must carry an up-to-date paper chart of the area. Learn to recognise the major on-shore landmarks so you can give your position relative to them.

Radio checks

Find out if your radio works properly.

Here's the easy way to check that your marine radio is working. Call your local Marine Rescue radio base and ask for a radio check.

But think of where you are when you call for your radio check. If you've just left the boat ramp or mooring, chances are the radio base will not be far away and your signal will be loud and clear. This will certainly confirm that your radio is operating but it's just as important to get your radio check from a distance, such as offshore where you stop to fish. Captain Murphy's ancient Law of the Sea states that is the place from where you'll need to call for help.

Call your local unit of Marine Rescue NSW for a radio check using this procedure:

Say: "MARINE RESCUE..." (location – eg Marine Rescue Sydney) spoken up to three times (once is enough in normal conditions). "THIS IS..." (your

vessel name) spoken up to three times (twice is enough in normal conditions). "RADIO CHECK. OVER."

The Marine Rescue operator will either respond with an immediate signal report or ask you to move to a working channel, which they will nominate. If they ask you to go to a working channel, change to that channel and call Marine Rescue again.

The Marine Rescue operator will then provide a signal report and ask



A radio check when out on the water is standard Marine Rescue procedure. Make it part of your day on board, too.

your location. Provide your location (the further away from the station, the more valid your radio check will be), followed by "OVER". The Marine

Rescue operator will then conclude the exchange.

The signal report will be one of the following:

Signal Report	Meaning
LOUD AND CLEAR	Loud, clear voice communications. No noise or interference.
GOOD READABLE	Good voice. Slight background noise/minor interference.
FAIR READABLE	Marginal voice. Occasional repeat of words needed, noisy/bad interference.
WEAK READABLE	Unreliable, difficult to understand, frequent repeats needed.
UNREADABLE	Unintelligible, voice barely evident.
NOTHING HEARD	No signal detectable.

Port Macquarie takes delivery of new vessel

IRB ideally suited for remote beach work and bar incidents.

Members of Marine Rescue Port Macquarie now have a replacement for our original Inflatable Rubber Boat (IRB).

The new vessel, built by Cobia Boats of Huskisson on the NSW South Coast, is a like-for-like replacement for our 11-year-old IRB. Powered by a 25hp Yamaha outboard, it is designated as *Port Macquarie 10 (PM 10)*.

The IRB has proved to be an ideal vessel when dealing with bar incidents, especially if a vessel has capsized and there are people in the water, as it is capable of operating in conditions that preclude the use of our larger Steber and Cobia vessels.

The IRB is also valuable for remote beach work, backed up by the Steber, which can transport the IRB on the rear deck for rapid

deployment to these locations.

A purpose-built prop guard and stainless steel propeller provide the boat with excellent standing start acceleration for bar and broken water conditions.

MRNSW Headquarters met half the cost of the vessel, with the balance paid by Port Macquarie unit. A \$2200 donation from the Westport Club of Port Macquarie greatly assisted us in raising our contribution and we thank Westport once again for its continued support.

Most of our new boat crew trainees begin their practical training in the IRB before graduating to our other vessels.

It is an excellent way to introduce trainees to the practicalities of rescue boat operations, however, training is dependent on the age and fitness of



Set for a training run on the new boat ... Port Macquarie members John Fenwick and 17-year-old Angus Mangan, who has this year completed his HSC.

the individual members, as crewing IRBs can be physically demanding.

Our previous IRB proved an extremely valuable asset and we didn't hesitate to seek a replacement. While incidents requiring an IRB

response are relatively infrequent, the boat is a flexible, highly manoeuvrable resource that substantially extends our operational capabilities.

Peter Ellison

ITIM SYSTEMS PTY LTD

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR INDUSTRY AND MARINE
4 CRAMOND STREET, WILSTON, QLD 4051, AUSTRALIA
P.O. BOX 218 RED HILL, QLD 4059, AUSTRALIA
ISD + 61 7. PHONE (07) 3356 1276. FAX (07) 3356 5693
<http://www.itim-systems.com> email info@itim-systems.com



ITIM Systems are pleased to announce the release of their Next Generation of system modules.

The first of these Next Gen Systems are upgrades of our popular FA1 and FA2 fire alarm controller modules. These have been designated as FA1-V2 and FA2-V4 and have benefited from a full program, enclosure and technology upgrade.



Visit our web site at

<http://www.itim-systems.com>

email info@itim-systems.com

Accurate position information aids search

Camden Haven unit saves fishing boat crew in night-time rescue.

The successful rescue of a 7m fishing boat in darkness at Camden Haven has again demonstrated the value of boaters carrying a marine radio and being able to give rescuers accurate information on their location.

Marine Rescue Camden Haven radio operator John Banks received a radio call at 4.45pm on October 18 from a skipper to advise he was having engine trouble.

The skipper was able to provide the vessel's coordinates, enabling Operations Officer Ken Rutledge to establish that it was about 12nm offshore, drifting west-south-west.

The Camden Haven rescue crew of skipper Ken Clancy, Keith Charman, Rob Sargent and Alan Malcolm, headed out aboard *Rescue 2*.

Night shift radio operator Brian

Burton then took a call from the skipper of a yacht heading south who had heard the radio conversation, offering any assistance necessary. The yacht was tracked using its AIS on the Live Ships website.

The fishing vessel skipper and passenger directed the rescue boat to the scene and reported they had rigged a makeshift sail and were making their way towards home.

By 6.50pm the *Rescue 2* crew had located the vessel and set up the tow back to the river. Forty minutes later the yacht crew contacted *Rescue 2* to say they had a visual on the scene and to check all was well. They were thanked for their help.

Rescue 2 crossed the bar and delivered the disabled fishing boat to the local wharf by 8.35pm. Ken Clancy said the rescuers were assisted by



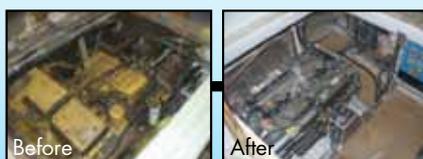
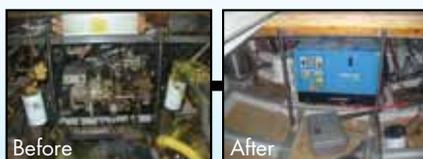
Rescue 2 towed the 7m fishing boat to safety in choppy 1.5m-plus seas after its skipper successfully directed the rescue vessel to the scene.

the vessel's crew providing good information about their position. This enabled an accurate intercept course to be determined. The seas to 1.5m-plus were choppy, which made the outward journey uncomfortable.

The tow back took place after dark and, although smoother, reinforced the fact that operating at night is completely different from a daylight operation.
Ken Rutledge

ReUse – ReNew – ReFit

Re-energise the life of your boat with a superior quality Steber Refit. From repairs and engineering upgrades to customised interiors, our innovative and sustainable approach ensures incredible performance, safety and value. To learn more about our *ReUse – ReNew – ReFit* program visit www.steber.com.au/ship-refits/



Steber International

PO Box 90 Taree Australia 2430 Phone +61 2 65522577 Fax 61 2 65510344

www.steber.com.au



Steber International is a Sustainability Advantage Silver Partner with a total commitment to continually improving environmental performance.

Rescue boat rides a crowd pleaser at open day

Lake Macquarie fundraisers set raffle records at two events.

The chance to take a ride on a rescue boat proved a huge attraction for crowds at Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie's popular annual open day.

The late October event, which attracted large crowds and raised significant funds for the unit, was followed by another successful fundraising effort at the annual Catalina festival in early November.

Open day began with a crisp, icy wind blowing across the water, making life a little difficult for the

to take visitors to the radio base at Swansea Heads had departed. Entertainment included a jumping castle, school choirs and brass band and member Peter Sun's daughter Natalie, on her ukulele.

The day was well supported by other local emergency and marine services, including the NSW Police Force Marine Area Command, the State Emergency Service, Roads and Maritime Services and the Armed Services.

The Rural Fire Service Lakes



The Rural Fire Service Lakes Team shows its new vessel's firefighting capabilities at the Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie open day.

The most popular attraction was a run up and down the channel in our rescue boats.

40 stallholders setting up but as the morning progressed, the weather warmed up and people started to arrive, drawn by the aroma of the breakfast barbecue.

By 9am, the first of the bus trips

Team put its new 8m Broadbill catamaran fire boat on the lake for the first time. The RFS volunteers put on a great display and we have joined forces to share training.

Shortland MP Jill Hall and

Swansea MP Garry Edwards opened the event, emphasising how important the organisation was to the safety of people on our waterways.

The main fundraisers for the unit were Cecily Rowland and her band of cooks. Thelma McCard's team sold a record number of raffle tickets in a day, with people flocking for a

chance to win the runabout, outboard and trailer. The raffle record didn't last long, with our fundraising team putting in another record-breaking day at the Catalina flying boats festival. *Lake Macquarie 11*, crewed by Tony Milton, Darryl Scotman and Zoe Tylee, also took part.

Roger Evans

New pontoon an asset in emergency response

Central Coast unit gears up for summer boating season.

A new pontoon at Marine Rescue Central Coast's Point Clare base will boost safety and assist in the emergency response to boating accidents.

The \$14,000 pontoon was generously donated to the unit by the Central Coast Freemasons, ready for the summer boating season.

Unit Commander Pat Fayers said the pontoon, attached to the unit's jetty, was a vital asset that would give paramedics and emergency personnel easier and safer access to people who had been involved in boating accidents. She said it also would allow disabled boaters safer access to their vessels and provide a platform for the unit to conduct licence testing.

She thanked the Freemasons for their support at a dedication ceremony attended by Freemasons David Williams and David Walker.

The unit passed its annual NSW State Rescue Board (SRB) accreditation inspection of bases, rescue vessels and operational equipment on October 3.

Marine Rescue NSW units are accredited by the SRB, which sets the official standards for rescue services on both land and water, including operating and reporting procedures, vessel equipment and crew training. This means that our volunteers along the coastline are trained and operate to a professional and consistent standard. Both the Point Clare and Terrigal Haven radio bases and both our rescue vessels received the tick of approval.

Fundraising continues to dominate our members' time, with activities including barbecues at Bunnings and Harvey Norman and a Crazy Whist function organised by Shea Wicks, Joy Smith and Pat Fayers.



Central Coast members Ian Morrow and Tony Long on the unit's new pontoon, donated by the Central Coast Freemasons.

We held community awareness events for the Erina Baptist Church Social Group and the Presbyterian Aged Care Group, providing information on MRNSW, base and boat inspections and either lunch or morning tea. We put in a huge effort at the Davistown Putt Putt Regatta and Wooden Boat Festival

on October 21, selling more than 200kg of sausages on the day.

A Melbourne Cup afternoon tea and hat parade at the base on November 6 proved popular and we followed this up by taking part in the Brisbane Water Oyster Festival on November 11.

Ron Cole

Proud to support Marine Rescue NSW

BERTH YOUR BOAT on the HAWKESBURY



- 97 berths with power and water
- 23 swing moorings (free dinghy storage)
- Boom gate access to car park, plus lock-up car park
- Toilets and showers
- Slipway to 15 tonnes
- Convenience store (Brooklyn Central) with ice, bait and tackle
- Unleaded fuel on wharf for marina clients
- Mechanic & Shipwright on site
- Launching ramp



SANDBROOK INLET
MARINA

Brooklyn 9985 5500



MAKING WAVES

Hunter/Central Coast news

Port Stephens proudly raises the standard

Base spruced up for 30th anniversary.



Whatever you do, don't drop it ... work on the refit of the 18m flag-pole at Marine Rescue Port Stephens' picturesque base.

A dinner attended by 120 members and supporters was the highlight of last month's celebrations to mark the 30th anniversary of the formation of our rescue unit at Port Stephens.

The Port Stephens Division of the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol was established in November 1982 by then RVCP Captain (North) John Thompson, who had recently moved into the area from Sydney.

John placed a small, almost inconspicuous advertisement in the local paper announcing a meeting to set up the Port Stephens Division. The advertisement resulted in a well-attended inaugural meeting at the Game Fish Club on November 2, 1982. The unit began operating with 21 volunteers on November 20 and John remained a valued member and Skipper III until his recent death (see In Memoriam, Page 39).

Our first radio base was a caravan located below the lightkeeper's cottage at Nelson Head. This was quickly replaced by a purpose-built room on a derelict army bunker in front of the cottage.

Today, our 190 members operate from a Category One Marine Search and Rescue Co-ordination Centre

located on the heritage-listed site of the former Inner Light at Nelson Head, looking over Shoal Bay and through the entrance to Port Stephens.

Under the guidance of our new Unit Commander Bob Young, the unit undertook a number of major refurbishment and beautification projects in the lead-up to the anniversary celebrations and dinner.

These involved refurbishing storage and training areas, re-painting both the interior and exterior of the entire facility and beautifying the site, including laying new paving around the cottage and extended cafe seating area.

The most demanding project was the refurbishment of our 18-metre flagpole, which was stripped and re-painted and fitted with new rigging wires, turnbuckles and shackles.

This involved lowering the flagpole to ground level before re-raising it when the work was complete.

A team of about a dozen members was co-opted to assist but it was not a job for the faint-hearted. We are now flying a new Australian flag presented by MP Bob Baldwin.

Laurie Nolan

Life member honoured with boat dedication

Broken Bay volunteers lauded at anniversary dinner.

Along with assisting boaters in need, members of Marine Rescue Broken Bay have filled their end-of-year calendars with pleasant formalities, commissioning our new rescue vessel and celebrating our 75th anniversary.

The unit has broken with tradition and named our \$75,000 6.5m Gemini RHB the *David B Harrison*, after one of our active Life Members.

David joined the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol in May 1974 and so far has clocked up 38 years of voluntary service to the NSW boating community.

David was so keen to attend the commissioning of his namesake that he left his hospital bed to witness his wife Margaret christen the *David B Harrison (BB 20)*.

The event, which also marked the opening of the unit's new jetty, was attended by Pittwater MP Rob

Stokes, Pittwater Councillor Ian White and members of MR Cottage Point, with the blessing conducted by Reverend Jason Ramsay.

This was followed by a dinner to celebrate 75 years of continuous rescue service to the boating community of NSW and, in particular, Broken Bay and Pittwater.

This was well attended by members and their partners and past Broken Bay Divisional and Unit Commanders, along with Mackellar MP Bronwyn Bishop, Mr Stokes, Cr White, MRNSW Chair James Glissan and directors Peter Phillipson and Bob Wilson.

Members were piped into the dining room by Pipe Major Robert Pearce, a member of MR Terrey Hills.

The dinner's organisers, Vic Lawrence and Mike Seale, ably supported by Alan Turner-Morris



Here's to you David... celebrating the commissioning of the David B Harrison are Ian McFarlane, Unit Commander George Patterson, David Harrison, Alan Turner-Morris, Pittwater MP Rob Stokes and Reverend Jason Ramsay.

and Peter Woods, made the night a success. Peter supplied 250 historical photos of the unit.

State awards were presented to recognise Geoff Wilson and David Harrison, and Don Southwell received a national award.

The raffle, arranged by Mike

Stupar, raised \$1200 in half an hour. The winners, Ron and Judy Carr, kindly donated back the prize, a 55-inch TV. Mrs Bishop said she encouraged new citizens to take up volunteering to understand what being an Australian was all about.

George Patterson

Stalwart weighs anchor from Hawkesbury

John moves north after 44 years' service to Sydney boating community.

The Hawkesbury unit is farewelling one of Marine Rescue NSW's longest-serving members, former Unit Commander John McCloskey, who is moving north. With 44 years' continuous service to the volunteer marine rescue community in the Sydney region, John is relocating with his wife Jan to the Gold Coast, close to family.

He will join the Point Danger unit, whose gain is Hawkesbury's loss.

Since joining the Royal Volunteer

Boating Course at the Spit, and later conducted Safe Boating and Radio Courses at Berowra RSL Club. He was also a NSW Maritime boat licensing examiner until 2010.

John was on duty at every Sydney to Hobart race start from 1969 to 1987 on board *Murrinui*, a classic gaff-rigged motor sailer owned by RVCP Flag Officer Commanding, Sandy McKinnon. He has been on the support teams for all 36 Hawkesbury Canoe Classics, every Palm Beach to



Migrating north ... John McCloskey (right) hands the Unit Commander's reins to Merv Collins.

"John has made a remarkable contribution to boating safety for recreational boaters."

Coastal Patrol Broken Bay in 1968 and then becoming one of the founding members of the Hawkesbury division in 1985, John has made a remarkable contribution to boating safety for recreational boaters.

In the 1970s he ran the Sun Safe

Whale Beach Swimathon and all but one Wisemans Ferry declared Speed Trial from 1969 until 2001.

In 1985, with Bob Love and Mark Herdell, he opened a sub-base of Broken Bay in a private residence at Bar Point on the Hawkesbury River. In

1986, the unit moved to a tin shed in the grounds of the Mooney Mooney Workers Club, where it remains today in significantly improved premises.

In 1991, Hawkesbury became a base in its own right. John served as Division Commander three times between 1996 and 2009, then Unit Commander of Marine Rescue

Hawkesbury from 2010 to 2012.

He has also been an RVCP Director and Accreditation Inspection Team member, a representative on the Lower Hawkesbury Maritime Users Group Committee and Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Local Emergency Management Committee and a NSW Volunteer Marine Rescue Council delegate.

Windsurfer has that sinking feeling

Botany Bay rescue sparks safety re-think.

An afternoon on the water went from pleasure to pandemonium for sailboarder Berowne Hlavaty when he found himself adrift in Botany Bay.

Berowne became one of almost 7,000 people rescued on NSW waters by MRNSW volunteers every year when Marine Rescue Botany Bay came to his aid.

"I had rigged a large sail for the day, a 7.0M2 racing sail, and had just added one knot to my personal top speed, achieving 34kts. I was so excited after looking at my GPS that I decided to try for an even faster run," Berowne said.

A gust of wind hit, snapping his mast and hurling him off the sailboard into the bay. Although uninjured, he couldn't raise his sail with the mast broken and sail full

of water.

Berowne quickly found himself drifting and was contemplating the expensive option of ditching the rig and paddling to shore or waiting for a helping hand.

Although he was wearing safety gear, his black wetsuit and a black and blue life jacket left him perfectly camouflaged in the dark water.

While Berowne survived to tell the tale - a passing sailboarder spotted him in the water and raised the alarm with MR Botany Bay - he has had some time to think about what he might do differently next time.

"I'll be getting some high-visibility safety gear and I should also look at a waterproof hand held marine radio and a high visibility foldable safety V sheet for good measure," he said.

As well as assisting those in



Even a knight can use some safety advice... members of MR Botany Bay meet a time traveller at the Lugarno Spring Festival.

trouble on the water, members of Botany Bay have also been energetically fundraising and promoting MRNSW and boating safety at a range of community functions, including the Lugarno Spring Festival and Cronulla Festival.

On November 18, members aboard *Botany 20* and *Botany 30* joined an unsuccessful search for a diver reported missing near Bear Island, although the search area widened to other areas of the bay and offshore as the tide turned.

An advertisement for Beacon Registration. The background is a photograph of a white motorboat with a blue canopy on the water. Three distress beacons of different colors (orange, green, yellow) are shown floating in the air. The text is in large, bold, blue and red fonts. At the bottom, there is a blue banner with white text and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority logo.

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

STEER CLEAR

SAFETY NOTICE TO ALL BOAT OPERATORS

Always keep a lookout for seagoing ships and **STEER CLEAR** of them

- ✓ Listen to the safety broadcast from Sydney Ports' 24/7 Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) centre on VHF Channel 13 for details of vessel movements
- ✓ Monitor VHF Channel 13 for position reports from vessels

Before heading out check the Daily Vessel Movements on the Sydney Ports website: www.sydneyports.com.au

24 HOUR HARBOUR OPERATIONS
VHF CHANNEL 13



Escort vessel identified by Red and Blue Flashing lights.

Police rescue expert praises volunteers

Regional SAREX fosters closer links between emergency services.

The NSW Police Force Marine Area Command (MAC) has again recognised Marine Rescue NSW volunteers' contribution to providing a vital emergency service to the boating community.

MAC Search and Rescue Coordinator Sergeant Paul Farquharson commended the training and operational commitment of Illawarra region volunteers following the successful Illawarra Search and Rescue Exercise at Greenwell Point in October.

More than 80 volunteers from the Kioloa, Batemans Bay, Ulladulla, Sussex Inlet, Jervis Bay, Shoalhaven, Shellharbour and Port Kembla units took part in the SAREX, organised by the Shoalhaven unit and coordinated by Sgt Farquharson.

Representatives of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Royal Australian Navy 723 Squadron *HMAS*

Albatross, Westpac Life Saver Rescue helicopter and the NSW Ambulance Service also took part.

The exercise centred on a search for three test dummies in the sea to the east of Crookhaven Heads. Seven MRNSW vessels were tasked to join the Police launch *Nemesis* and the Westpac and Navy choppers in a grid search over 144 square nautical miles.

After the dummies were successfully located, they were recovered by the helicopters in a test of winching manoeuvres.

At the end of the exercise, Sgt Farquharson said MRNSW units working in partnership with the MAC and other emergency services provided vital rescue services to their local boating community.

"MAC values the support and assistance provided by Marine Rescue NSW and is committed to continuing to provide training, including SAR



Seven Illawarra MRNSW units were tasked with helping locate three test dummies in the sea to the east of Crookhaven Heads.

exercises, up and down the NSW coastline," he said.

Shoalhaven Unit Commander Terry Watson said the two-day SAREX had been a great success and an excellent opportunity to share experiences with and foster closer links between marine search and rescue agencies.

Mr Watson reminded all boaters

planning on spending time on the water over the warmer months to Log On with their nearest Marine Rescue unit.

"All skippers must be aware of their responsibilities to those on board their vessel as safety of life at sea is everyone's responsibility," he said.

Pat Welch & Ray Jones

Two operations keep Port Kembla up all night

Yacht and trawler in trouble in heavy conditions off Illawarra coast.

November 1 turned into a hectic night for MR Port Kembla.

At 8.20pm the Search and Rescue Coordination Centre at Hill 60 received a phone call from the wife of the skipper of an 8.53m yacht advising they had lost a sail, had ropes wrapped around the prop and needed a tow into Wollongong Harbour.

Radio operator John Parker informed NSW Police Force Marine Area Command (MAC) and Unit Commander Peter Purnell, who alerted skipper Alex "Shorty" Mathieson.

"Shorty" and his crew of Jack McPhan and Ray O'Malley were on the water in *Port Kembla 30* at 9.15pm. The yacht was positioned just south of the last large tanker lying off the coast of Port Kembla.

After a difficult tow in the heavy conditions, the volunteers had the yacht back on to its mooring in Wollongong Harbour at 10.57pm.

At 11.47pm, Hill 60 night shift radio operator, Anton Dominis, received another emergency call from the skipper of a 9m fishing trawler en route from Sydney to Batemans Bay.

The skipper reported smoke coming from the console in the cabin and a position east of Port Kembla. MAC was again contacted and arranged for Helicopter Rescue 24, stationed at Albion Park, to conduct a search. In the meantime, the *PK 30* crew returned to the harbour and had the vessel back on the water by 12.20am.

The searching helicopter and *PK 30* reported the trawler was not in the location given. Port Kembla Water Police contacted the vessel crew, who advised they were just east of Flinders Island (Toothbrush), where the search was redirected.

The Water Police asked the skipper to send up a flare, which was sighted



Towing yachts and trawlers all part of the job ... *Port Kembla 30* heads off on another rescue mission.

from both air and sea, revealing the vessel's position to be about 15nm off Bellambi, not near the other search areas.

When *PK 30* reached the trawler, a line was secured and a long, slow tow

back to the harbour began, as the wind had gained strength and the seas were rough. The trawler was returned to Wollongong and *Port Kembla 30* was back on its mooring at 5am.

Sussex Inlet crew commended for search op

Three men lost in ill-fated late night fishing expedition.

Members of Marine Rescue Sussex Inlet have been commended for their work in the search for three men who drowned while on a fishing expedition on St Georges Basin in September.

NSW Police Force Marine Area Command Search and Rescue Coordinator Sergeant Paul Farquharson presented Unit Commander John Lang with a Certificate of Appreciation at the recent Illawarra SAREX, recognising the unit's professionalism during the search.

The Sussex Inlet crews dedicated 156 volunteer-hours over nine days and 39 hours steaming to the search, eventually locating the body of one of the men before MAC officers located the remaining two.

The four men had set off at 11.30pm on September 16 from Sanctuary Point in a flat-bottomed

punt that subsequently overturned.

At 1am on September 17, police contacted the Sussex Inlet night base requesting help to locate three people missing in the Basin.

While one man, who managed to hang on to the hull and yell for help was rescued from the water by a local resident from the Bream Beach area, the other three men were not seen.

The Sussex Inlet crew, aboard *Sussex 10*, was on the scene in Erowal Bay at 1.45am and tasked to start an east/west search grid from Sanctuary Point to Wrights Beach, working north. The crew maintained this search pattern for the rest of the night, retrieving the capsized boat from the Bream Beach vicinity without locating any of the missing men.

Sussex 10 returned to base for refuelling and crew rotation before returning at 8am to search throughout the day with MR Shoalhaven, Police



NSW Police Force Marine Area Command Search and Rescue Coordinator Sergeant Paul Farquharson presents MR Sussex Inlet Unit commander John Lang with a Certificate of Appreciation for the unit's assistance in a lengthy search operation.

vessels, divers and POLAIR and the Westpac Rescue helicopter.

The Sussex Inlet unit continued to keep a visual in the area over the next five days.

The tragedy occurred during school holidays and the Sussex Inlet crew was grateful a member of the public, especially a child, did not discover any of the bodies.



CASUAL MARINA BERTHS FOR VISITORS



Marina berths - right in the heart of Gosford

ON BEAUTIFUL BRISBANE WATER RIGHT IN THE HEART OF GOSFORD
Book Online: www.vmrcc.org.au
Phone 02 4325 7929

MARINE RESCUE NSW
Central Coast ABN 98 138 078 092





Marmong Point Marina
on beautiful Lake Macquarie

A lifestyle like no other
Nanda Street Marmong Point NSW • p 4958 3333
www.marmongpointmarina.com.au



Eden keeps watch over Humpback Highway

Whales and tourists popular visitors on Far South Coast.

The waters off Eden have been described as Humpback Highway lately, with the peak of the annual whale migration south for the summer.

Not only have the whales been jumping for joy, the influx of tourists witnessing this spectacle has brought smiles to the faces of the tourist operators and a much-needed boost to their coffers after a very quiet winter season.

The Marine Rescue Search and Rescue Coordination Centre at Eden has become a popular place for the public to gather to watch mothers and calves cruise into Twofold Bay, right at the feet of the duty watchkeepers.

Members on duty in the base are frequently told they have the best working vista imaginable. An invitation to join Marine Rescue always follows and it is pleasing to note that we have signed up another three members in the past few months.

As the annual migration

culminates each year, Eden hosts its well-attended Whale Festival on the first weekend of November. Marine Rescue Eden again took part this year, attracting many visitors from NSW, Victoria and the ACT to our open days over the weekend.

The most popular part of the visit was using Eden MR's long range spotting scope to watch the cavorting whales.

Operationally, business for MR Eden has picked up with a steady increase in recreational boating and transiting vessels.

Work is also progressing well on our replacement communications tower, with a stand-alone 24m lattice structure to replace the "temporary" tower on the roof of the building.

The tower itself has been completed, ready for the installation of cabling and aerials. This piece of infrastructure will provide us with better radio coverage to the south and into Bass Strait and should be finished in time for this year's



A job with a view... riggers at work on the new radio tower at Marine Rescue Eden.

Sydney-Hobart yacht race.

A grant of \$27,200 from the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia SOLAS Trusts has greatly helped

with the \$60,000 project. We are grateful for the Trusts' support with this valuable project.

John Steele

Bermagui welcomes Springfest visitors

Unit's new base in prime location at centre of festivities.

Marine Rescue Bermagui's new home base put the unit in the centre of the action at this year's Springfest Fair on the Fishermen's Co-operative Wharf.

The annual fair attracts a lot of local people to the wharf, where the unit is now located in a prime location with an excellent view of the harbour mouth and improved radio transmission.

Unit Commander Alec Percival said the fair was an ideal time to launch the Marine Rescue summer raffle of a family runabout, motor and trailer and invite members of the public to visit the new Marine Rescue base.

"The communication and liaison that occurred through the base

demonstrated the value of a central location at the harbour," he said.

On the wharf, our stand looked professional with our new banners and donation box boats, which were popular with the kids, as was coin throwing on the rescue boat.

A number of people asked about joining Marine Rescue as a volunteer or member of our radio club and we took the opportunity to meet representatives of agencies including Customs and Fisheries, who also had displays at the fair.

The Fisheries personnel provided us with brochures on whale restrictions and our nearby Marine Parks, about which we have received a number of enquiries at the base. We now have a range of



Marine Rescue Bermagui members at the annual Springfest Fair: Deputy Unit Commander Denise Page, Dave Evans, Barry Heseltine and Unit Commander Alec Percival.

boating, fishing and other marine brochures of interest to hand out to the public.

During the day, a group of tourists

came into the base to report an injured seabird, resulting in a call to the seabird rescue group.

Denise Page

Narooma members qualify for jet ski rescue

Course tests ability in surf and calm conditions.

Three members of Marine Rescue Narooma have become our first qualified jet ski operators after successfully completing a training course at Tuross Head last month.

Narooma members Ben Woolnough, Cassandra Bendixsen and Damien Stanford, along with life savers from the local Eurobodalla Shire, undertook the Australian Professional Ocean Lifeguard Association training.

The course was run over two days of classroom theory activities and calm water and surf rescue techniques, with participants required to show their competency in search and rescue using a jet ski (or Personal Water Craft, PWC).

This included launching and retrieving a PWC from boat ramp and beach sites, operation of a PWC and precision approach driving, which



Powering to the rescue ... Marine Rescue Narooma members Damien Stanford, Ben Woolnough and Cassandra Bendixsen are now qualified jet ski operators.

involved surf riding, wave judgement, cavitation, safe zone, entering and exiting surf zone, holding position in the surf and going over broken and unbroken wave.

Other aspects covered were power craft rescue procedures, PWC management, maintenance and

emergency procedures.

Rescue techniques, involving rescue slings, rescue tubes, rescue sleds and crew members, were assessed in both calm water on Tuross Lake and surf conditions at One Tree Beach.

Rescues included conscious and

unconscious patient pick-up, prone locking position with crew assistance, crew drop-off and one person pick-up.

Ben, Cassandra and Damien have added to our rescue capabilities at Narooma by operating our two PWCs, *Narooma 11* and *Narooma 12*.

Mark Jolly



BARRENJOEY MARINE ELECTRICS

www.marineelectricsydney.com.au

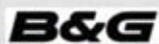
With a combined staff experience of 97 years and 30 years of operation in the marine electrical industry, Barrenjoey Marine Electrics has become Sydney's premier marine electrical business. BME have carried out the complete electrical and electronic fit out to the new Marine Rescue Stebercraft 38 as well as multiple refits to smaller craft.

Please contact us for further information on what BME can offer you, from large electrical and electronics packages to smaller trailer boat installations.

BME are sales and services agents for all major brands. Visit our website www.marineelectricsydney.com.au for more information.













Barrenjoey Marine Electrics proudly supporting Marine Rescue NSW.

Barrenjoey Marine Electrics, Unit 5B Heron Cove Marina, End of Queens Parade West, Newport, NSW 2106
Phone: 02 9997 6822 Fax: 02 9979 5601 Email: sales@bme.net.au



BOAT BOOKS AUSTRALIA

- Over 5000 different books in stock on every aspect of boating
- World wide chart coverage corrected up to date of sale
- Full range of instruments for all your navigational needs
- Phone, Mail, Email & Fax orders processed immediately
- All major credit cards accepted
- National coverage

MELBOURNE Boat Books

214 St Kilda Road
St Kilda VIC 3182

Phone: (03) 9525 3444
Fax: (03) 9525 3355
Email: melbourne@boatbooks-aust.com.au

SYDNEY Boat Books

31 Albany Street
Crows Nest NSW 2065

Phone: (02) 9439 1133
Fax: (02) 9439 8517
Email: boatbooks@boatbooks-aust.com.au

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.boatbooks-aust.com.au



Port Kembla unit's Cobia 6.25 Enforcer, PK 20, seen here in the shallow waters of Lake Illawarra, has a Cuddy Cabin with hard top.

Cobia 6.25 Enforcer RHIB

MRNSW units are finding this Australian-made vessel handles well in difficult conditions.

When Marine Rescue NSW was choosing vessels for its sizeable Fleet Replacement Program, Cobia was one of the Australian-made brands that ticked all the boxes for the specialised needs of several Marine Rescue units.

Cobia Boats Managing Director Vince McKay said: "I think the vast majority of Australians probably know our boats but don't realise it. However, when I say 'red rubber duckies used by surf lifesavers' the penny drops. The boats we build for Surf Life Saving Australia make up about 90 per cent of all surf craft used in our country and we also export to Thailand, Hong Kong and the UK."

While these may be the most visible, they aren't the only craft that

come out of the Cobia factory in Huskisson on the NSW south coast.

Cobia's client base is extensive, with customers including the Australian Army SAS, Fisheries NSW, Australian Institute of Marine Science, NSW Roads and Maritime Services, Australian Customs and Marine Rescue NSW.

"All our boats are made to order," Mr McKay said. "None are standard craft that have to be converted to squeeze or stretch into what a customer is looking for. Our boats are designed and built to meet a customer's specific need. Our expertise and experience is in hand-built soft hull inflatables and custom RHIBs (rigid hull inflatable boats) of any size from 3.75m to 10m.

"We have over 40 craft in Survey

in NSW alone," he said. "The Enforcer range, which is supplied to Marine Rescue NSW, is the smallest craft in our range that carries the 2C Survey classification."

Cobia specialises in Hypalon synthetic rubber material developed for superior strength and resistance to abrasion and high temperature.

"Our Cobia, TE 20, has greatly improved the response time from our base to a rescue site."

Cobia is one of only two manufacturers in the world to use the world's toughest Hypalon with two layers of base cloth in their pontoons.

"We are quite different from most manufacturers as most of our components are made on site. We have a large service section that has

and will travel anywhere in the world – and that meant going to Iraq for one customer. We also offer replacement collars of all sizes. The largest of these to date has been a 20m collar for a vessel at the Australian Submarine Corporation in Adelaide. This means we can service both our own craft as

well as those from other builders that are unable to do so."

Marine Rescue The Entrance has taken delivery of the fourth Cobia 6.25 Enforcer RHIB built for Marine Rescue NSW. Although similar to other Cobias purchased by individual units, this vessel is the latest of the breed.



The Entrance Unit Commander Stewart Masters said: "Our Cobia, *The Entrance 20 (TE 20)* replaces our ageing Shark Cat, which although maintained in good working condition was becoming a bit of a challenge as it reached old age – it was built in 1985. The treacherous, very short, steep seas on Tuggerah Lakes during a blow did not suit the Shark Cat in bad conditions.

"The Cobia, by contrast, barely notices them. Once on the plane, she handles a 2m chop with ease and has greatly improved the response time from our base to a rescue site. The addition of radar has made finding vessels in distress very much simpler and faster. The installation of two Raymarine multifunction screens has meant that the helmsman can concentrate on the course while the navigator uses the radar.

"Following intensive training on vessel handling and a complete classroom and practical course on the sophisticated navigation system for our 10 skippers, all are now very comfortable on the new vessel in all conditions.

"The low, softer sides of this RHIB has made extraction of people from the water a much simpler affair and requires no lifting gear. Our crew members have found working in the Cobia much better with its flat working deck area and absence of sharp corners. The twin 90hp Suzuki outboards provide a top speed of about 35 knots when required, but also good fuel economy at 25 knots and plenty of power for towing. The 250L fuel tank gives us a non-stop range of 10 hours or over 250nm at 25 knots," Mr Masters said.

"*TE 20* lives on our Versadock floating dry dock adjacent to the jetty at our North Entrance base. This gives us the best of both worlds – we can launch in less than a minute but the vessel is stored out of the water."

On the NSW South Coast, Marine

Rescue Port Kembla members have the flexibility of operating their Cobia on both the main body of Lake Illawarra, as well as the capability to trailer around to the popular Windang Channel when low tide or bad weather cuts off direct access from the main lake.

Unit Commander Peter Purnell said: "This is a splendid boat with excellent handling and response. It has significantly increased our capability to come to the rescue even in very shallow water."

The Cobia's shallow draft is ideal for the lake conditions where its shallow waters contribute to many boats grounding and needing a tow to deeper water. Waters on the lake can turn ugly in strong winds that raise a short, steep chop that causes smaller craft to capsize and frequent calls for help.

Peter White from Marine Rescue Kioloa said: "Our Cobia, *Kioloa 20 (KI 20)*, is parked on its trailer in the boatshed beneath the base and we have a tractor that launches the vessel straight down the ramp into the water. Being on a trailer also gives us an extra advantage that allows us to go to neighbouring bases if additional resources are needed for a search or to take part in joint training exercises. We simply trailer *KI 20* to Ulladulla in the north or Batemans Bay to the south where our crews can increase the numbers searching or get the benefit of training with the larger vessels at these bases.

"We're all very happy with the vessel," Mr White said. "She has a 200L fuel capacity and an excellent cruising speed of 25 knots with even more in reserve if needed."

Cobias are also in service with Marine Rescue units at Shoalhaven, Batemans Bay and Port Macquarie which has added a 3.75m RIB to its 6.25m open centre console model. Marine Rescue Kioloa has a Cuddy Cabin model with soft bimini top, Port Kembla has a Cuddy Cabin with hard top and Central Coast has just received its 6.25m Enforcer hard top.



PK 20 at cruising speed in the Illawarra.



The Cobia 6.25 Enforcer TE 20 during a rescue at Tuggerah Lakes.

TECH SPECS 6.25m Enforcer

The Entrance 20

Survey Class	2c
Survey Length	6.25m
Survey Beam	2.45m
Draft (motors up)	0.4m
Draft (motors down)	0.7m
Top speed	38 knots
Cruising speed	25 knots
Fuel capacity	250L
Operational range	250 nm +
Engines	2 x Suzuki 90hp
Electronics	2 x Raymarine Multifunction Displays (1 x C90 & 1 x C120)
	Radar – Raymarine RD418HD
	Sounder – P58 transom mounted transducer
	AIS – Furuno FA-150
	Fluxgate compass
Radios	TAIT TM 8250 DCN
	Icom MC 505B VHF with public address system
	GME GX300 27MHz
EPIRB	GME MT 400

National award for yacht race rescue

Crew risks lives to save competitors in treacherous seas.

The crew of a Melbourne yacht who risked their lives to rescue survivors from a sunken competitor during an open water race off Melbourne in April has been awarded the Australian Search and Rescue Award for 2012.

The award was made at a dinner marking the 36th meeting of the National Search and Rescue Council, held in Melbourne on October 17.

The four-man *Trybooking.com* crew from Melbourne battled huge swells and wind gusts of up to 70 knots in the middle of the night to rescue the six survivors from the yacht *Inception*, which sank during the Melbourne to Port Fairy race at Easter this year.

The *Trybooking.com* crew then struggled for more than nine hours in the treacherous seas to transfer the sailors to shore and safety.

Their nomination for the award was made by staff of AMSA's Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC Australia).

The nomination read: "The outstanding seamanship displayed in bringing the yacht alongside the survivors in 6 to 10m seas, and with selfless acts of strength and bravery, they successfully managed to recover the survivors from the water at great personal risk."

In presenting the award, Victorian Emergency Services Commissioner Michael Hallowes praised the men



Consummate seamanship ... 2012 National Search and Rescue Award winners, the crew of *Trybooking.com*, Grant Dunoon, Ross Fisher, Peter Ffecht and Kim Walker.

for their selfless actions in rescuing fellow sailors.

"These men epitomise the great Australian sense of mateship, coming to the aid of others in the time of dire need. The consummate seamanship displayed not only in finding these men, but recovering them to a place of safety in treacherous conditions demonstrates the greatest care and concern for others."

The four man crew – skipper Grant Dunoon, Peter Ffecht, Ross Fisher and Kim Walker – each received a large brass weather station, inscribed with their name and the details of the incident.

Mr Dunoon, Chief Executive Officer of event booking company *Trybooking.com*, also accepted a small brass plaque marking the role

his yacht played in the rescue. The plaque will be mounted in the yacht as a permanent marker of the rescue.

Speaking on behalf of his crew, Mr Dunoon said he felt incredibly honoured to be given such a prestigious award.

"It is humbling to share our story of the night with the men and women of the rescue authorities from around Australia.

"On the night of the rescue, there was a team of people from Canberra to Melbourne providing backing and support with timely information that enabled us to locate the *Inception* crew. Without it, we never would have found them.

"I would like to give special thanks to everyone involved that night, particularly Craig Longmuir from

AMSA, Peter Clancy of the Ocean Racing Club of Victoria and Sergeant Lachlan Holding from the Victorian Water Police, all of whom made the rescue and a safe return to port possible," Mr Dunoon said.

Three other nominated groups will be presented with commendations at separate ceremonies around the country.

The annual Australian Search and Rescue Awards recognise outstanding service to the Australian community by a person or group providing search and rescue services. To nominate a crew, organisation or individual for the 2013 awards, please visit natsar.amsa.gov.au/



Poly Flex AUSTRALIA

ADVANCED POLYMER TECHNOLOGY FOR VIBRATION CONTROL

Poly Flex was established in 1981 and have since developed a large range of engine mounts to suit any application. Our mounts are:

- Moulded from heat cured polymer alloys which are long lasting and oil/fuel resistant.
- Manufactured and tested by Poly Flex Group with decades of experience and hands on control of all stages of the manufacturing process.
- Available with DNV, (Det Norske Veritas) type approval upon request for vessels in survey.

Better By Design

Poly Flex Group Pty Ltd
26 - 28 Tubbs Street Clontarf, Queensland 4019
Ph (07) 3284 2799 - Fax (07) 3284 2672
Email info@polyflex.com.au Web www.polyflex.com.au

Help our injured wildlife

Every year thousands of marine birds and animals are injured by plastic bags, fishing line, hooks and sinkers. If you see an injured bird or marine animal please call **WIRES** on 13000 WIRES or Australian Seabird Rescue on 0428 862 852.

WIRES

Donate to WIRES at www.wires.org.au or to Australian Seabird Rescue at www.seabirdrescue.org

What we've been up to



Marine Rescue Broken Bay's Matt Palmer, Terry Joyce and George Patterson join members of the NSW Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Service and Volunteer Rescue Association to pay their respects at the 12th annual Emergency Services Volunteers Memorial Service in Sydney.



It's not everyday you meet the Flintstones. Alpine Lakes members took the chance to sell the modern Stone Age family some tickets in the unit's boat-motor-trailer raffle at the Adaminaby Races.



Marine Rescue Eden volunteer Glenda Wood helps a young tourist take a closer look at migrating whales heading south down the coast. (See Eden keeps watch over Humpback Highway, Page 32).



Guests at the Marine Rescue Broken Bay 75th anniversary celebrations were piped into the dining room by Pipe Major Robert Pearce, a member of MR Terrey Hills.



Terrey Hills member Simon Denneen faced his fear to abseil 115m down the side of Sydney's AMP Tower, raising \$1760 for the Sir David Martin Foundation. Simon's keen to enter an MRNSW team next year.

PROUD TO SUPPORT THE MARINE RESCUE
NEW SOUTH WALES

HI-TIDE



AUSTRALIA'S
No.1 FISHING
& BOATING
RADIO
PROGRAM

Kieran Reekie
& Alan Blake

www.2sm.com.au/hitide.html

Kieran Reekie
and
Alan Blake
know
everything
there is to
know about
how to snare
the catch of
the day.



From 4am

Saturdays and Sundays



Covering the entire Tweed & Gold Coast



E: hitide@2sm.com.au

1269 - AM

www.2sm.com.au/hitide.html

GEAR UP

Essential new equipment

GME

Waterproof your phone

Boaties worried about getting their mobile phone, iPod or MP3 player wet when they're on board may welcome finding a new product from GME under the tree this Christmas.

The GME Sound Safe is a robust, buoyant, waterproof case with an integrated amplifier and speaker that connects to any media player 3.5mm headphone socket via an internal cable.

This means your device, including the new iPhone 5, fits securely inside the watertight casing, which will also protect against sand and dust.

There's even room to store your keys, money or other valuables. The Sound Safe delivers 30 hours' entertainment on a set of 3 AA batteries. \$49, gme.net.au



BURKE MARINE

Lifbuoy stow bag redeployed

The LIF222B – Lifbuoy Stow Bag from Burke Marine has been redesigned. It has been fitted with a user-friendly, top-opening Velcro closure for speedy deployment of the lifebuoy and Man Over Board (MOB) equipment. An easy-to-follow guide has been incorporated on the back of the bag, providing the user with crucial, ready-to-hand emergency instructions. Its durable PVC-coated fabric, reinforced webbing attachments and non-corroding fasteners will help to protect your MOB equipment against the harsh Australian sun and conditions.

The Lifbuoy Stow Bag is designed to easily attach to a variety of safety rail and stanchion configurations. \$37, burkemarine.com.au



APP REVIEW

Marine Rules & Signals

Produced by Imray Marine Navigation and recommended by MRNSW communications specialists, this reference guide to rules and signals at sea is a useful tool for boaters, sailors and fishermen. The app is nicely illustrated with diagrams and short, clear text so you can remind yourself quickly about a rule or light while you're on the water or learn at home while planning your next trip.

The rules of the road information includes steering and sailing rules, lights and shapes, sound signals and distress signals. Version 1.8 includes an Australian map.

Suitable for both iPhone and iPad. Find it on iTunes (under Navigation). \$6.49



Port Stephens mourns founding member

Memorial garden a tribute to John's decades of service.



John Thompson ESM.

The founding member of Marine Rescue Port Stephens, John Thompson ESM, who dedicated more than four decades to the safety of the boating community, will be remembered in a memorial garden dedicated to volunteers

who have "crossed the bar".

An area of the unit's Nelson Head base will be restored as the memorial garden and named the John Thompson Marine Rescue Memorial Sanctuary.

One of the longest serving members of our organisation, John passed away in October aged 80.

John joined the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol Broken Bay Division in 1968, before relocating to Port Stephens in 1981.

He became a founding member of the RVCP Port Stephens Division, which began operating with 21 volunteers at Nelson Head in November 1982 and is now celebrating its 30th anniversary with 190 members (see Port Stephens proudly raises the standard, Page 26).

A retired engineer, John taught engineering and navigation at Sydney Technical College and Nelson Bay TAFE.

During his 44 years' service, John held roles including Divisional Commander of Broken Bay, Regional Captain, Deputy Flag Officer and Flag Officer Commanding. He also was a Master Skipper, coxswain examiner and boat inspector and set up many Divisions throughout Australia.

John was awarded Life Membership of the RVCP in 1994 and also received an RVCP award for bravery, the Centenary Medal, Emergency Services Medal and National Medal.

John was also extremely proud of his work with Surf Life Saving. He joined the North Curl Curl life saving club in 1950 at the age of 18,

travelling from his home in Auburn and camping at Curl Curl so he would be available for duty. The first captain of any jet surf rescue craft in the world, he was awarded Life Membership of that organisation, too.

John remained an active member of Marine Rescue and the PROBUS club and was the first President of the Salamander/Soldiers Point Chamber of Commerce.

His wife Monica has been very involved with MRNSW and a great supporter of John and his hefty schedule.

We have all been fortunate to have known John as a friend, colleague and member of MRNSW. We will miss his wealth of knowledge, high level of commitment and boundless energy.

Bob Young

Lake Macquarie loses valued pair

A double blow for unit within one week.



Norman Pritchard.

Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie has lost two valuable members with the passing of Norman Pritchard, aged 79, and David Reid, 46.

Norm joined the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard at Swansea on February 19, 1999, bringing with him a wealth of marine knowledge and experience.

He quickly gained his Competent Crew rating and not long after his

Advanced Crew rating. Through no fault of his own, it took longer to reach his goal of Coxswain, which he achieved in July 2010.

Unfortunately, Norm's health meant he could not continue active boat duty so he became one of Swansea's boat crew trainers, which had been his aim since day one.

Together with his wife Elaine, Norm had another passionate interest: cans.

Not to drink but to collect, crush and recycle for cash as a fundraiser for first the Coast Guard and then Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie.

You could often see the boot of their 4WD loaded up with cans for processing and recycling.

Norm passed away on September 16 and is survived by Elaine, their daughters Simone and Diahann and five grandchildren.

David (Chopper to his friends)

Reid joined us on January 13, 2009. Coming from a business background, he was soon trying to find ways for Coast Guard Swansea to make money.

David was the driving force behind Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie's awareness campaign and fishing competition in late 2011, not long before he was diagnosed with mesothelioma, triggered by working with asbestos some 30 years ago.

David had a number of passions, including his bike (hence the Chopper nickname), fishing and boating.

He had many problems with his boats (including breakdowns and sinking), none of which dampened his enthusiasm for anything to do with the water.

He had obtained his Crew rating and was working towards a Leading Crew rating until



David Reid.

his health deteriorated.

David passed away on September 23, just a week after Norm.

His organisational skills shone through right to the end as he planned his funeral, the scattering of his ashes and a video of his life.

He is survived by his parents Christine and Win, daughter Chrystal and son Nathan.

Roger Evans

Brunswick poorer for David's passing

Serving the community despite illness.

The Royal Australian Air Force's loss was Brunswick Heads' gain when David Ryan retired after serving with distinction in arenas including Darwin, the Cocos Islands, Antarctica and Kuwait.

On his retirement from active duty, David moved to Brunswick, where he became the Secretary of the local RSL Club.

Shortly after, on his birthday in 2005 he joined Marine Rescue, when we were part of the Volunteer Rescue Association.

David quickly gained his Marine Radio Operator qualification and was doing regular duty in our Marine Radio Base until poor health curtailed many of his duties.

Still wishing to be of service to us and his community, he offered to provide a standby station in his home and carry the emergency phone. David's retirement to our area has only made it a richer community.



David Ryan.

David passed away in September, aged 61. Members of Marine Rescue Brunswick and the RSL mounted a guard of honour at his funeral. We learned a lot more about his earlier life from his daughter Tammy's eulogy. Rex Fisher paid tribute on behalf of the RSL, followed by a unit tribute. We will scatter David's ashes at sea.

David Ryan lived respected and died very much regretted.

Owen Danvers

Unit farewells its first Commander

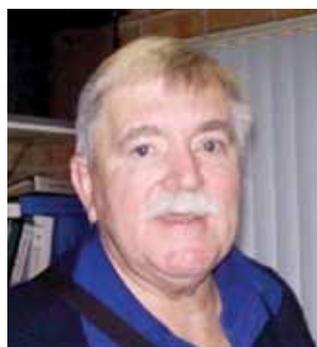
Two years at helm of Forster.

Members of the Forster-Tuncurry unit are mourning the passing of their inaugural MRNSW Unit Commander Graeme Parker.

Graeme, who died in September, joined the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol after a career in the Australian Army Cadet Band.

He became a Radio Operator and in January 2008 was appointed Divisional Commander Forster Tuncurry Division.

When Marine Rescue was established, Graeme assumed the position of Unit Commander and held that position until June 2010 when illness prevented him from standing



Graeme Parker.

for election of Unit Commander.

He will be missed by all who knew him.

Dennis Travers

Sincere thanks for your support

Members help family in time of need.

Our family was overwhelmed by the number of people from Marine Rescue, VRA, NSW Police and Maritime who attended Neil's funeral to celebrate his life. It was truly amazing.

I would like to thank you all for making the long journey to be with the family on this very sad day and for the generous support in donations of \$550 for the Port Macquarie Base Hospital Oncology Unit that was presented in Neil's name.

My thanks also to the many members who phoned or visited Neil while he was in hospital and then in care; Neil enjoyed seeing you all and catching up on the latest goings-on!

We gratefully appreciate the support you have given us in our time of need and we feel we would have not been able to cope without you all.

Many thanks.

The McCartney family – Glennie, Kirsten, Ngahree and their families.

Camden Haven loses good friend

'Bestie' always there when needed.

Marine Rescue Camden Haven has lost a valued member and friend with the death of Graham Best.

Graham joined the then Volunteer Rescue Association in 1997, serving as a Radio Operator, Skipper and the unit's Boat Controller for many years before being awarded Life Membership in 2011.

A true character, he also applied his talents to training and assessment.

Previous Unit Commander George Tedds said: "With the passing of Graham we not only lost a valuable volunteer but a good friend as well.

"Gra Gra, or Bestie, as he was known, together with his mate John Sinclair, used to be the ones who did the majority of call-outs back when it was not unusual to get many calls for help, sometimes just (from someone) out of fuel or "no start" and other times searching for days for persons lost at sea.

"Bestie and John were always there and did a great job."

Graham became an instructor and



Graham Best.

was known for his rather "flowery" remarks to crews in training, some of which were once memorably broadcast on VHF when he did not realise he had his elbow on the Press To Talk button on the VHF mike.

This led to an apology from the radio base to those who may have heard.

We all miss him and our thoughts go to Patty and their family.

Ken Clancy

GME

INNOVATIVE ELECTRONICS



The new GME MT406G EPIRB with integrated GPS receiver provides the last piece ...

Be found fast!

Search and Rescue authorities will have your GPS co-ordinates accurate to less than 100m within minutes, which means you get rescued quicker.

Don't take the risk, take the newest technology. GME providing affordable safety.

- > 16 channel Quadrifilar Helix GPS Receiver
- > High intensity strobe light
- > Australian design and manufacture
- > COSPAS-SARSAT worldwide operation



Warranty



Battery Life

Sydney (02) 9879 8888 Melbourne (03) 9798 0988 Brisbane (07) 3278 6444 Perth (08) 9455 5744 Adelaide (08) 8234 2633 Auckland (09) 274 0955

www.gme.net.au



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



TH24
240 X 180 RESOLUTION

TH32
320 X 240 RESOLUTION
WITH 2x DIGITAL ZOOM



Raymarine ASIA Pty Ltd
Suite 301, 2 Minna Close,
Belrose, NSW, 2085
T: 02 9479 4800
www.raymarine.com.au

INNOVATION • QUALITY • TRUST
Raymarine®