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SOUNDINGS



Quarterly Journal of Marine Rescue NSW | Issue 40, Spring 2019

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Cover Image

Marine Rescue Botany Port Hacking Deputy Unit Commander and Leading Crew Member Jan Borgelt prepares to throw a line from *Port Hacking 30*.
Photo: Brad Whittaker.

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From the Commissioner

Conference a welcome opportunity to discuss exciting projects ahead.



Commissioner
Stacey Tannos ESM

Generosity. Loyalty. Intelligence. Humility. A willingness to learn. The ability to pull people in. An appreciation for the outside lives of your team.

These were just some of the attributes of successful leaders nominated by speakers at our 2019 Marine Rescue NSW Leadership Conference.

The Unit Commanders and Deputy Unit Commanders assembled for the event embodied these and many other qualities, including a capacity for hard work, good humour and thoughtfulness.

I can think of no better way to celebrate our 10th anniversary than to have had the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Margaret Beazley AO, QC and the Police and Emergency Services Minister David Elliott officiate at our conference.

As well as recognising the progress we have all made together over our first decade, the event provided a welcome opportunity to share details of some exciting projects that lie ahead.

The Governor was generous in her praise for all our members and for those who accepted positions of leadership.

“Leadership is an internal quality but it is something you can always learn about and step up to,” she

said. “Leadership is about listening. It’s also very much about doing and being seen to be doing.”

Both the Governor and Deputy Commissioner Dean Storey cited President John F. Kennedy’s belief that leadership and learning were indispensable to each other. It was a fitting observation in the environment.

No matter whether they had lengthy experience or were recently elected to their executive positions, our unit leaders arrived with a

Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other: President John F. Kennedy.

willingness to share their experience and knowledge and to learn from each other and all those who addressed our biennial assembly.

Our subject experts were thought-provoking, challenging us all to reflect on our motivations and leadership style and hopefully inspiring us to push ourselves, to aim higher.

We may not decide to leave our families behind to sail around the world like Tony Mowbray but perhaps we could follow his lead in tackling challenges head-on.

Minister Elliott gave credit to the State’s taxpayers for the additional \$37.6 million in funding for MRNSW

over four years. We were able to outline to delegates the work that has gone into mapping out the investment of this funding in rescue vessels, the radio network and new and upgraded facilities to ensure we continue our trajectory of growth.

I encourage all our leaders to report back to their units on this charter of expenditure and the other initiatives discussed by staff.

The atmosphere over the two days was constructive and convivial, with people willingly contributing to

lively debate and equally enjoying new company over the official dinner. To the best of my knowledge, our special guest, magician Tim Ellis, did not make anyone disappear, although I cannot vouch for phones, wallets or glasses.

I would like to thank Executive Officer Marree Doherty for a magnificent job in organising the event and the Board Directors and staff who contributed over the course of the weekend.

As Chair Jim Glissan said in his opening remarks, MRNSW is now deservedly recognised not only on the local and national stages but also internationally.

Ten of our members from MR Port Macquarie are in company with the world’s finest, shortlisted for an International Marine Rescue Federation award for their courageous, skilled and determined efforts to save the lives of three seriously injured men whose cruiser had been holed in a collision with a submerged object offshore in the dark on April 14.

I was pleased to meet them and thank each personally at our awards ceremony in August.

Heroes all.

Stacey Tannos ESM
Commissioner



Commissioner Stacey Tannos and the four MRNSW finalists enter this year’s Rotary Awards dinner.

Heroes honoured for life-saving mission

Port Macquarie rescue team recognised among world's finest.

Ten Marine Rescue Port Macquarie volunteers have been presented with awards to recognise their courage, skill and service during a challenging operation to save the lives of three seriously injured men on a sinking motor cruiser in the dark far from shore.

The men sustained a number of injuries, including broken bones, severe lacerations, punctured lungs and a spinal injury, when their 10m cruiser struck a submerged object off Crescent Head in the early hours of April 14 this year.

Chair Jim Glissan and Commissioner Stacey Tannos presented Marine Rescue NSW awards to the volunteers at a dinner attended by 160 people at Port Macquarie's Westport Club on August 23.

Mr Glissan said none of the men on the cruiser had been wearing lifejackets and could not be moved without the risk of further injury.

"They could not remain without drowning," he said. (See Page 4.)

The MR Port Macquarie team was also shortlisted as one of two finalists in the Outstanding Team Contribution to a Maritime Search and Rescue Operation category of the 2019 International Maritime Rescue Federation Awards and nominated for an Australian National Search and Rescue Award.

Commissioner Tannos presented Chris Condon and William Richardson with Commendations for Courage for their bravery in boarding the holed vessel and ensuring the men made it off the boat to safety.

Commissioner's Citations were presented to *Port Macquarie 30* crew members Reg McGlashan, Yolanda Bosschieter and Tony Hallett; *Port Macquarie 20* crew members Robert Breskal and Owen Coulls; watch officers Graham Gibbs and Gary White and Unit Commander Greg Davies.

Commissioner Tannos said



Marine Rescue Port Macquarie's life-saving team ... Unit Commander Greg Davies and Deputy Commander Graham Gibbs on the deck of *PM 30*, Owen Coulls, Rob Breskal and Yolanda Bosschieter on the ladder and Reg McGlashan, Gary White, Tony Hallett, Bill Richardson and Chris Condon on the flybridge.

the volunteers' courage and determination throughout the six-hour mission had without doubt ensured three lives were saved.

"These 10 volunteers deserve recognition and praise for their commitment to the Marine Rescue NSW mission of saving lives on the water, working together as one to rescue the stricken boaters," he said.

The Port Macquarie radio base received a Mayday call from the cruiser at 1.07am on April 14 but the location given by the caller - later found to have a broken jaw - was difficult to determine.

As the watch officers persisted in their attempts to gain accurate coordinates and UC Davies liaised with the NSW Police Force Marine

Area Command to coordinate the response, the rescue crew searched under darkness to find the boat.

They eventually located the damaged cruiser with the assistance of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter just south of Crescent Head.

"When *PM 30* arrived on scene, Mr Richardson and Mr Condon bravely boarded the holed vessel to provide emergency first aid to the three people on board," Commissioner Tannos said.

"As the cruiser began sinking, without regard for their own safety, the pair ensured all three injured men escaped, painstakingly extricating the patient with the spinal injury from below deck where he had been trapped among debris by using the rising water in the cabin to

float him out into the sea.

"All five men were rapidly retrieved by the crew of *PM 30* and transferred to shore, rendezvousing en route with *PM 20*, which had paramedics on board."

Commissioner Tannos said the MRNSW, national and international recognition of the crew was well deserved.

"These members are now recognised among the world's finest. They are genuine heroes," he said.

"This is a tremendous accolade for our volunteer's skill and professionalism.

"Our volunteers do not join our service for glory and awards but it is pleasing to see this worldwide acknowledgment of their ability and service."

From the Chair

We have arrived, with a new sense of enthusiasm, drive and cohesion.



Chair
James Glissan AM ESM QC

This is an edited transcript of Chair Jim Glissan's welcoming address at the 2019 MRNSW Leadership Conference.

I am delighted to welcome you all here to recognise the completion of 10 years by MRNSW and of your service. Over each of the previous conferences we have celebrated our joint achievements. Those foundational achievements included Seahawk, the phone App, new vessels, radio bases, the quality and depth of training as our own Registered Training Organisation and the growth of excellence developed and maintained by the Headquarters.

Now our mindset is Marine Rescue; no sense of other remains.

We have achieved 25 per cent membership by women and increasingly, a younger demographic across our 44 units, with major funding from government providing the leading contribution to those boats, bases and training initiatives.

We have now arrived, with a new sense of enthusiasm, drive and cohesion across the service, between units and within the units themselves.

Support from every level of government, each of the emergency services and the NSW Police - each Local Area Command as well as the Marine Area Command - confirms the level of confidence and trust in our members and our professionalism.

One incident illustrates that level of achievement. About 0107 on 14 April, MR Port Macquarie received a Mayday call. The message was difficult to understand and the position of the distressed vessel not clear. Both *PM 30* and *PM 20* put to sea. A 10m motor cruiser had hit a submerged object at sea, was disabled and settling. Its three crew were all seriously injured. At first our crew thought it was an exercise.

The coordinates provided were

inaccurate and the vessel was located about 15nm from the reported position by Westpac 3 SAR helicopter. It was unable to drop a paramedic in the prevailing conditions. *PM 30* arrived to find two injured crew visible. One had a broken jaw, fractured eye sockets, a broken clavicle and broken arm. The second was in the cabin with a suspected spinal injury, suspected punctured lung, broken ribs and broken jaw. The crew located the third man, who had clear spinal injuries, in the bow. *PM 30* called *PM 20* to collect the paramedics from Westpac 3 and began a tow. Almost immediately, the cruiser began to sink. None of the men were wearing lifejackets or could be moved without the risk of further injury. They could not remain without drowning.

Our crew remained on the vessel

Courage, enhanced by training and a dedicated team, leads to an outstanding outcome.

while it sank, despite the danger of it overturning, remaining below deck and using the incoming water to float the injured men out of the galley, through the cabin, on to the deck and into the sea where they remained with them, keeping them afloat as the boat sank beside them. This, some miles at sea in the middle of the night. All five were carefully retrieved by *PM 30* and triaged. On arrival of *PM 20*, paramedics took over emergency care and the boats returned to base. But for the prompt, professional and courageous acts of the MR crews, all would have died.

This shows that courage, enhanced by training and supported by a dedicated team, leads to an outstanding outcome despite enormous difficulties. I acknowledge every member of the team, every volunteer, a hero in his or her own way. This rescue has been

recognised with MRNSW awards, nationally by AMSA with a NATSAR nomination and by the International Maritime Rescue Federation, which represents the world's marine rescue services, whether civilian or military, full-time or voluntary, large or small. The IMRF has shortlisted the entire Port Macquarie team for its Honouring Excellence in Rescue Operations (HERO) awards as one of only two finalists for the major award recognising the best in worldwide marine rescue in 2019.

This will be the second time that MRNSW has been in the HERO awards. In 2016, we were runners up in the technical awards for the Seahawk and the *MarineRescue* App. No-one does it for the accolades, but it is good to be recognised for our standards of excellence.

We now look to move to the next

level. Management of the funding announced this year requires careful management and thought.

Recent achievements in streamlining training, in developing the rating system, in unification and rationalisation where needed, in standardisation of the purpose-designed fleet and its fitout are resulting in significant cost benefits.

Establishing MR Lord Howe Island, our first offshore operation, was specially desired by the NSW Government and included in our new funding. We are hoping to establish a Training Academy and Centre of Excellence to deliver expedited advancement by residential intensive courses.

We are developing the plan for the future and considering the strategic development of MRNSW. For you to return to your units having been part of creating that future plan is the aim of this conference.

An Angel on high at annual Rotary awards

Four deserving finalists vie for Volunteer of the Year award.

Marine Rescue Port Macquarie member Ray Angel has been named the MRNSW Volunteer of the Year at the 2019 Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards.

The awards, which recognise the Service Above Self of members of the emergency services, were announced at a gala dinner in Sydney on August 2.

The other three MRNSW finalists were MR Woolgoolga Deputy Unit Commander Mitch Harvey, MR Port Jackson's David Hand and MR Jervis Bay's Kevin Hill.

Chair Jim Glissan and Directors Ken Edwards, Glenn Felkin, John Lynch, Bob Wilson and Jim Wright joined Commissioner Stacey Tannos, the four nominees, their family members and other staff and volunteers at the ceremony.

Police and Emergency Services Minister David Elliott congratulated all finalists from MRNSW, the NSW Rural Fire Service, Fire + Rescue NSW, the State Emergency Service, NSW Ambulance Service and Volunteer Rescue Association.

"On top of your civilian lives, on top of your family lives, you not only



MRNSW Rotary Volunteer of the Year Ray Angel (left) with his fellow finalists, Kevin Hill, David Hand and Mitchell Harvey and Commissioner Stacey Tannos (centre).

want to be volunteers for these agencies, you want to learn more, you want to pursue excellence," he said. "I come to these awards and I am in awe. Don't accept these awards without knowing they come from a grateful nation."

Mr Angel, who joined the unit in 2015, has drawn on his naval

experience to participate in 56 search and rescue operations, during which he and his crew members have frequently encountered hazardous conditions and weather. As the unit's former Operations Officer, he also has ensured its fleet remains rescue ready through the establishment

of maintenance procedures and schedules and efficient management of unit stores.

Commissioner Stacey Tannos said all four finalists had been deserving of recognition for their sustained contribution to the MRNSW mission of saving lives on the water.

See In their own words, Page 9.

Minister road tests mobile command vehicle

Emergency Services Minister David Elliott officially handed over the new \$200,000 MRNSW Mobile Incident Command Vehicle at Tweed Heads on July 7.

Mr Elliott and Tweed MP Geoff Provest inspected the new van with Commissioner Stacey Tannos, MRNSW Directors Ken Edwards and Bob Wilson and volunteers from MR Point Danger.

Mr Elliott said the NSW Government was proud to support MRNSW volunteers with additional funding for upgraded resources to assist in their vital work to save lives on the water.

"The 2019-20 NSW Budget is

delivering total funding of \$1.7 billion for our emergency services first responders," he said.

"Over the next four years, Marine Rescue NSW will receive an additional \$37.6 million in funding to deliver 38 new boats, provide new and upgraded operations bases and other facilities and reinforce the State's marine radio network."

Mr Elliott said the modified Iveco Daily van would be used to provide critical command and control during major response operations and serve as a back-up communications system for units.

Commissioner Tannos thanked the Minister for the Government's



Emergency Services Minister David Elliott, Commissioner Stacey Tannos and Tweed MP Geoff Provest with the new \$200,000 MRNSW mobile command post at Tweed Heads.

financial support for MRNSW and recognition of its volunteers' work to save lives on the water.

After its launch, the van travelled to a Radio Operators' Professional Development Weekend at Ballina.

Community votes for new Lord Howe unit

Island's skilled boaters put up hands to join first offshore operation.

The Lord Howe Island community has strongly endorsed the establishment of their own Marine Rescue NSW unit.

More than 40 residents attended a public meeting on the island in early August, voting overwhelmingly in favour of the creation of Marine Rescue's first offshore unit.

Commissioner Stacey Tannos said more than 80 per cent of those present had voted for the unit, with no one speaking against the proposal.

"After the meeting, 18 residents immediately signed up as prospective members, with another dozen or so who were not on the island when the meeting was held also indicating their interest by proxy," he said.

Lord Howe Island is a drawcard



Lord Howe Island ... boating paradise and site for the planned 45th MRNSW unit.

for visiting boating, fishing, snorkelling and diving enthusiasts.

The Lord Howe Island Marine Park is one of the best diving spots

in the world, with more than 60 dive sites. Game fishing for marlin, wahoo and tuna also is popular.

An application will now be submitted to the State Rescue Board for pre-accreditation approval to begin the process of establishing the 45th MRNSW unit, providing facilities and training new members.

"Those who have put up their hand to join already have a range of qualifications, including Master 5, MED 3, commercial Coxswain tickets and radio operator certificates," Commissioner Tannos said.

"This is a well-developed skills base on which to build a new unit.

"Of course, new members will still need to undertake specific rescue training to add the required

competencies to their existing skill sets but this will significantly expedite our training processes."

Deputy Commissioner Dean Storey, Greater Sydney Regional Operations Manager Glenn Evans and NSW Police Force Marine Area Command Acting Inspector Brett Prentice also attended the meeting with representatives of the Lord Howe Island Board and community.

Commissioner Tannos said the group had inspected a site earmarked for a proposed boat shed and radio room on Lagoon Road next to the island boat ramp.

Work is under way on plans to upgrade VHF marine radio coverage on the island and source a large rescue vessel suited to deep water operations.



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A site to the left of this Lord Howe Island Board facility has been earmarked for a proposed MRNSW radio base and boat shed.

Women urged to stand for election to Board

Volunteers to elect four Directors in second online poll.

Female members of Marine Rescue NSW have been encouraged to stand for election to the Board of Directors.

Volunteers will this year cast their votes for four members of the Board: a General Director and the Northern Rivers, Mid North Coast and Hunter Central Coast Regional Directors.

The tenth Board elections will be held in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting at State Headquarters on November 23.

In her official opening address at the MRNSW Leadership Conference on August 31, NSW Governor Margaret Beazley encouraged women to nominate for the Board.

She commended the service's high level of female membership and the only woman on the Board, Pat Fayers, for her experience and leadership.

"We have to make space and make systems work so those who want to contribute are able," she said. "It's hard to be what you cannot see. I'm still surprised at how important it is for young women to have role models."

The Governor said the Board of Directors was charged with the strategic leadership and, importantly, the corporate governance of the

organisation.

"In recent times we've seen big organisations falter. You can't let that slip," she said.

Chair Jim Glissan urged members with the time and commitment to seek election.

"We have an extremely good Board with a broad range of talents and experience. We could have more women on the Board. We are fortunate to have Pat Fayers; she's a wonderful contributor and I'm sure she'd like company," he said.

"We want you to stand for the Board. We want people who are qualified and have time to commit to be involved in the management and direction of the company."

Mr Glissan said the sole duty of the Directors was to act always and only in the interests of the company as a whole and to ensure that all decisions made and actions taken by the operational arm were also positive for the company.

"No-one should stand for or come on to the Board with any other aim or to 'represent' any group. To do so courts personal disaster as well as damage to the organisation," he said.

The General Director will be elected for a three-year term. This



MRNSW Directors at the MR Forster-Tuncurry base: Jim Wright, Keven Marshall, Glenn Felkin, Pat Fayers, Ken Edwards, Chair Jim Glissan, Bob Wilson and John Lynch.

position is currently held by Mr Glissan.

The three Regional Directors will be elected for two years. The Northern Rivers position is vacant following the death of Bill Wardrobe last November. The incumbent Mid North Coast Director is John Lynch and the Hunter/Central Coast Director Jim Wright.

Nominations open on September 16 and close on October 11.

Volunteers nominating for election must have been an active member

for at least two years, possess knowledge and experience of MRNSW and bring relevant skill sets such as professional qualifications or board, governance, fundraising or management experience. Regular and Life Members are eligible to vote but not Provisional Members.

This will be the second MRNSW Board election conducted online.

Members need to ensure their correct personal email address is listed on the Otter system to ensure they receive their voting materials.

10th anniversary mementoes for members

Each MRNSW volunteer is to receive a specially-struck pin to commemorate the organisation's tenth anniversary.

Commissioner Stacey Tannos said the pins were a small memento of the organisation's first decade of service to the NSW community.

"Marine Rescue NSW belongs to our volunteers and our achievements since 2009 are theirs," he said.

"These pins are a small token of our gratitude for the hard work

and commitment of our members throughout our first 10 years."

Based on the MRNSW roundel, the pins have been struck in gold for those who have been members for the entire decade and silver for all others, including provisional members.

Chair Jim Glissan and the relevant Regional Directors also presented each Unit Commander at the 2019 Leadership Conference with a commemorative anniversary plaque to mount in their units.



Commemorating our first decade ... 10-year plaques and pins.



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Ray Angel

Rotary's MRNSW Volunteer of the Year



On duty on board *Port Macquarie 30* and enjoying the Rotary Emergency Services Awards ... MRNSW Volunteer of the Year Ray Angel with fellow MR Port Macquarie members Michelle Rayner and Robert Curtis and Maddy Plunkett and Lauren Angel.



Ray Angel, from Marine Rescue Port Macquarie, was named the Marine Rescue NSW Officer of the Year in a Volunteer Capacity in this year's Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards, announced at a gala dinner at Sydney's Bankstown Sports Club on August 2. A rescue vessel Coxswain, Ray was nominated not only for the hundreds of hours he has committed to rescue operations and his work to ensure the unit's fleet remains rescue ready but also his contribution to the unit's team spirit and the motivation he brings to other members.

■ **I joined Marine Rescue NSW in May 2015 just to see if in some small way I could give back to my local boating and oceanic community.** I never realised how busy I was going to become. Once I finished my Crew course, I would show up regularly. Whether giving a helping hand to the Operations Officer in the boat shed, cleaning the upstairs meeting room and kitchen, tidying the chart room, working the raffles or running the

barbecue, I was there.

■ **During all this I was also on on-call rotations. Occasionally, it was one week in three or one week in two.** At the same time, along with all the other jobs I was doing, I started my Leading Crew course. Shortly after becoming Leading Crew, our boat shed Operations Officer resigned and I was asked to step into the position. Work was increasing so with the Unit Commander and Deputy's permission, I designated a member of crew to be responsible for each vessel.

■ **I feel that being a member of Marine Rescue Port Macquarie is a privilege.** Not everyone can work the hours I do; I choose to because I am retired and have the time available. From our Unit Commander to our new recruits, everyone does their bit to make the machine run as well as it does. Our unit is very busy on and off the water. Between training on a minimum of two days a week and being on call when scheduled seven days a week, you are kept

on your toes continuously. Along with boat crew, we have our Raffles and Fundraising team, who work tirelessly raising funds to keep our vessels and equipment in top order; and all four vessels need a lot of TLC! Along with the radio operators who keep a close eye (ear!) on all vessels and crew while at sea, it makes for a great team of 170 members.

■ **I never for a moment thought the efforts we provide daily would be recognised and I would rise to the heights of being nominated for the Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards.** And when I was announced as the Marine Rescue Officer of the Year I was speechless, to say the least.

■ **To anyone who is thinking of joining Marine Rescue, I would say that camaraderie and dedication are the key to your time volunteering.** Whether you donate one or 40 hours of your time a week, you have to enjoy what you're doing and appreciate the difference you're making. If

you want to become a boat crew member then there are a few things needed. Firstly, a reasonable level of fitness, as crewing a boat can be labour intensive. Secondly, boating knowledge will certainly help but isn't necessarily required. Lastly, the worst thing would be if you suffered from seasickness!

■ **My roles in the unit vary but primarily, I am a Coxswain, or Skipper, who is called out in emergency situations or in active routine training tasks.** Other ancillary duties are the planning and implementation of both routine and unplanned maintenance and training and mentoring new and existing members, along with fundraising activities.

■ **In my short time with Marine Rescue NSW, I have executed 57 call outs and spent over 750 hours under way on Marine Rescue vessels.** The best part of all is the teamwork that all 170 members of our unit display daily. If asked if I would recommend joining Marine Rescue NSW, the answer would be a definite "YES!".

Conference celebrates past, plans for future

You have made an extraordinary contribution to our State: NSW Governor.

The 2019 Marine Rescue NSW Leadership Conference was staged in the exquisitely restored heritage-listed Primus Hotel Sydney.

The hotel is located in the former Sydney Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board headquarters and its blend of historical and contemporary features made it a fitting location for the event to mark the organisation's 10th anniversary and chart its course for the future.

The conference, on August 31 and September 1, brought together the leaders of the service's 44 rescue units, all eight Board Directors and staff.

NSW Governor Margaret Beazley officially opened the conference with an inspiring speech expressing the State's deep appreciation for MRNSW and its volunteers.

"Birthdays are always terrific. Over 10 years of extraordinary service, you have made an extraordinary contribution to our State and served with distinction," she said.

She said MRNSW volunteers had carried out more than 25,000 rescue missions over the decade, returning 50,000 boaters safely to shore and the community

"A life lost is not one life lost. It has a ripple effect on many, many members of the community. It really is quite amazing work to do. You are such a support to the internal strength of our community, you're right at the heart of it."

The Governor said doing good work brought enormous personal satisfaction.

"But it takes a lot of team effort, an extraordinary amount of hard work to train and on occasions it takes an extraordinary amount of courage. You are to be congratulated for that. To keep it all together needs strong leadership."

She said leaders were magnets, pulling people in, and encouraged



Many happy returns ... NSW Governor Margaret Beazley joins Deputy Commissioner Dean Storey, Police and Emergency Services Minister David Elliott, Chair Jim Glissan and Commissioner Stacey Tannos to cut the MRNSW 10th anniversary cake. Photos: Brendan Trembath.

units to draw in young people and women.

A quarter of MRNSW members are women - the highest proportion in the emergency services.

Both the Governor and Chair Jim Glissan commended this achievement but did not shy away from pointing out that there was still a way to go.

They paid tribute to the first woman elected to the MRNSW Board, Pat Fayers.

Police and Emergency Services Minister David Elliott said he was confident the record investment of \$37.6 million in taxpayer funding for MRNSW would be spent well.

He thanked the volunteers for their contribution to the community, saying there was no way in the world the government could afford to pay for the service and time of emergency services volunteers.

He said when a volunteer received an award or accolade, it was for their family "so when you get called out from Christmas lunch, they can put that award on the table



Women in leadership ... Bermagui UC Caron Parfitt, Newcastle DUC Lynette van Homrigh, Woolli Assessor Jackie Taffs, Merimbula DUC Sonia Teston, Director Pat Fayers, Ulladulla DUC Gabrielle Boermans, Point Danger UC Glenda Ashby, Shoalhaven Administration Officer Danielle Carter, Forster-Tuncurry DUC Fran Breen and Norah Head DUC Julie Rostron.

so they know we appreciate what you do, your sacrifice".

Mr Glissan said MRNSW had a new sense of enthusiasm, drive and cohesion.

"The support we receive from every level of government, the emergency services, police - both Marine Area Command and Local Area Commands - confirms the level of confidence and trust they

have in our members and our professionalism," he said.

He said MRNSW was recognised among international agencies such as the United Kingdom's Royal National Lifeboat Institution and the United States Coast Guard.

He congratulated the members of MR Port Macquarie who had been shortlisted for an International Maritime Rescue Federation award



Meet the team ... the leaders of MRNSW, including Chair Jim Glissan, Board Directors, Commissioner Stacey Tannos, Deputy Commissioner Dean Storey, Unit Commanders, Deputy Unit Commanders and staff, assemble for the 2019 Leadership Conference in the heritage-listed Primus Hotel Sydney.

for an operation to rescue three seriously injured men from a holed cruiser sinking offshore in the dark.

“But for the prompt, professional and courageous acts of the Marine Rescue crew, all those men would have drowned. It shows that courage, enhanced by training and supported by a dedicated team, leads to an extraordinary outcome.

“The members of Port Macquarie represent the best of marine rescue worldwide,” he said.

This year’s conference began with a welcome event for out-of-town members in the hotel’s spectacular lobby, which features eight-metre scagliola columns and a paneled skylight restored to their 1930s Art Deco glory as part of the hotel development in 2015.

The official conference dinner featured magician Tim Ellis, who kept his audience enraptured as he drew members on stage to take part in astonishing illusions.

Commissioner Stacey Tannos said the conference was intended to help unit leaders with their important roles. Thus, leadership was the prominent and integral theme throughout the two days.

Delegates heard from an impressive array of speakers, who shared their personal and professional experience and insights into leadership, team-building and volunteer engagement, evoking enthusiasm among the delegates.

Sailor Tony Mowbray choked up as he recalled his fear that he and the crew on board his yacht *Solo Globe Challenger* would die in the terrifying conditions in the 1998 Sydney to Hobart race, in which six lives and five yachts were lost.

“I wondered if my last thought would be of my children,” he said, his voice breaking with emotion. “And then I thought ‘which one?’.”

The experience changed his life, leading him to chase his dream to sail around the world.

In October 2000, he set off on a solo circumnavigation, sailing back into Newcastle Harbour 181 days later in April 2001.

Membership specialist Belinda Moore said organisations needed to harness each generation’s different motivations for volunteering, whether it was to give back to the community, gain human contact or work skills or to build a legacy.



Delegates enjoy an entertaining and engaging presentation from membership specialist Belinda Moore on day one of the conference.

Brad Rilatt addressed crucial conversations and Kurt Wrigley and Shelley McElroy led discussions on building high-performing teams.

In addition to reflecting on the merits and progress of the organisation over the past 10 years, the Commissioner and staff discussed plans for the immediate and longer-term future of the organisation.

Deputy Commissioner Dean Storey addressed the ongoing renewal of the MRNSW fleet, with a mandate for 38 new boats; the future proofing of the radio network and enhanced operational readiness.

Commissioner Tannos outlined the work over a number of years that had led to the investment of additional State Government funding, and a proposal to establish a centralised MRNSW training academy at State Headquarters.

The agenda also included staff presentations focusing on volunteer retention, property and project management, developments in the marine radio network and infrastructure, training culture and initiatives, new corporate and unit websites and a rebranding exercise aimed at keeping the organisation’s identity strong and modern.

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PROUD TO SUPPORT MARINE RESCUE NEW SOUTH WALES

Our leadership team on show



A group of dads walked into a Sydney hotel ... and stayed for the MRNSW Leadership Conference. This year's conference concluded on Father's Day and before they returned home, we assembled the dads present for a group photo. Thanks to all of our volunteers who gave up their time with their families to serve our community on Father's Day.



How did he do that? Magician Tim Ellis had his audience transfixed with his mystifying illusions in a stellar performance at the official Conference Dinner on Saturday night.



Women in service ... Governor of NSW Margaret Beazley, who officially opened the Leadership Conference, with MR Newcastle Deputy Unit Commander Lynette van Homrigh.



North and south MR Bermagui Deputy Unit Commander Alec Percival with MR Woolli Commander Richard Taffs and Assessor Jackie Taffs and MR Woolgoolga Deputy Commander Mitch Harvey.



Congratulations ... General Director Bob Wilson and Chair Jim Glissan present MR Broken Bay Unit Commander Jimmy Arteaga with a plaque commemorating a decade of MRNSW service.

New works boost radio reception in far south

Wiping out blackspots benefits Hobart race fleet and local boaters.

This year's Sydney to Hobart fleet should experience superior marine radio reception as it transits the NSW Far South Coast, thanks to a planned communications upgrade by MRNSW and the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia SOLAS Trusts.

The Trusts and MRNSW, which owns and operates the marine radio network, are funding the installation of new VHF infrastructure on a reservoir on high ground in Bermagui.

Emergency Systems Manager Andrew Cribb said it would reduce localised blackspots along that stretch of rugged coast, increasing safety.

"This is a huge step forward, especially for marine radio reception out to sea, where boats in the Sydney to Hobart would be," he said.

"The CYCA SOLAS Trusts are generously contributing \$70,000 to this important project."

Mr Cribb thanked the Trusts for their support and continuing commitment to marine safety.

"A robust and reliable marine radio network helps underpin safety at sea for both blue water

sailors and the broader boating community," he said.

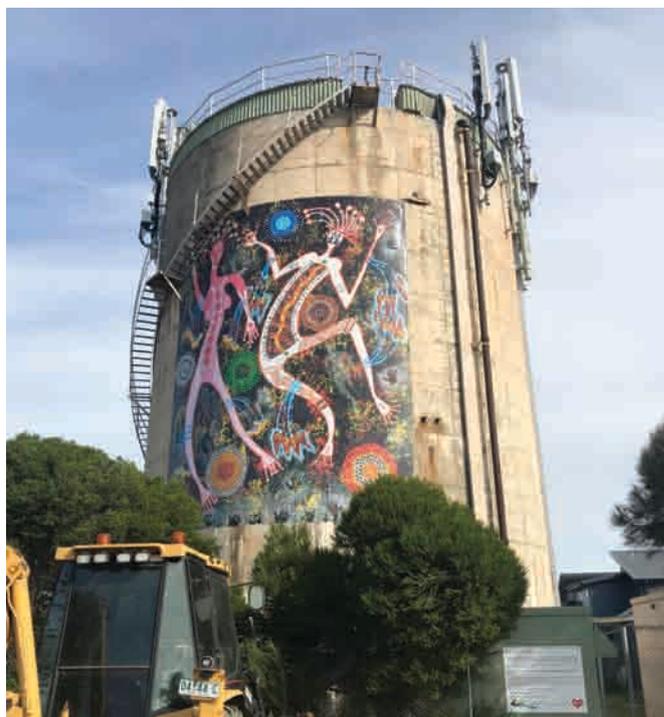
MRNSW also plans to reinforce the power supply on Mount Imlay, a remote communications site south west of Eden. Diesel generators will be installed to back up the site's solar power system.

Mr Cribb said extended VHF Channel 16 coverage via Mount Imlay and Timbillica Hill further south was an excellent investment.

"On December 27 our Eden base received a Pan Pan call from German race entrant *Rockall* south of Gabo Island and on January 14 Eden picked up a Mayday call from *Hollywood Boulevard* north-east of Flinders Island," Mr Cribb said.

"Our marine radio network and the volunteers who give up their time to monitor it are a winning combination."

Mr Cribb said the MR Eden base had been renovated to improve the work environment for volunteers and the visiting team from the CYCA that tracked the Sydney to Hobart fleet through scheduled position reporting requiring each yacht to report its position via HF radio or risk incurring



New VHF infrastructure will be installed on the landmark Bermagui reservoir to boost marine radio coverage on the coastline.

a penalty.

Mr Cribb said as a trial, MRNSW conducted "skeds" using VHF radio during the Sydney to Gold Coast Yacht Race in July.

"We ran the 'skeds' from Sydney

for the whole yacht race. Position reports along the course were relayed to Sydney using Radio over Internet Protocol technology," he said. "It was a huge success."

Brendan Trembath

Public vote nets \$430,000 for three projects

Three MRNSW units have received more than \$430,000 in funding in the inaugural My Community Project grants program.

MR Broken Bay will receive \$200,000 towards its new rescue vessel, MR Norah Head \$140,835 for its new boat shed now under construction and MR Jervis Bay \$90,000 towards the refit of its radio base with new online marine radio technology.

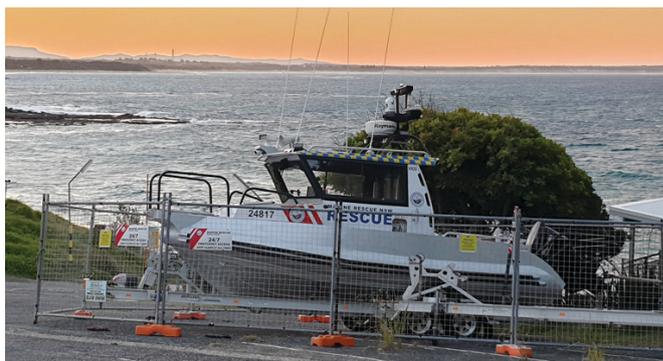
Funding allocated under the new State Government program was determined by a public online vote.

MR Broken Bay Unit Commander Jimmy Arteaga said members were

grateful for the amazing support from the Pittwater electorate, local organisations and their friends for the unit's bid to win a grant to help replace its ageing 28 foot Steber.

"This grant not only fast tracks the delivery of a state of the art rapid response emergency vessel for the Pittwater and Broken Bay area but shows great support to our volunteers who risk their own lives and put their families on hold in achieving the common goal of saving lives on the water," he said.

MR Jervis Bay Unit Commander Alex Ross said the funding was a great opportunity for MRNSW



A \$140,835 grant will help fund a home for new rescue vessel *Norah Head 20* to protect it from exposure to the weather.

to continue modernising its fleet, equipment and facilities.

"Thank you to South Coast MP

Shelley Hancock for her support and our members for voting for us. This will help us save lives on the water."

VHF the smart choice for greater safety

Network upgrades result in superior coverage for boating community.

The VHF marine radio network owned and operated by Marine Rescue NSW, which now covers about 85 percent of the NSW coastline, is being extended with work under way to eliminate the remaining major blackspots.

Boaters are urged to take advantage of the stronger safety net being created by ensuring they use a VHF marine radio.

Communications equipment is being installed on Dr George Mountain near Bega, reservoirs at Bermagui and Moruya, Round Hill south of Batemans Bay and Boyne Trig south-west of Ulladulla.

"This is the final frontier," MRNSW Emergency Systems Manager Andrew Cribb said.

"These are the last major blackspots that we are filling in."

The work is being completed by Tuggerah-based Karera Communications.

"Once the South Coast projects are finished we expect to have consistent marine radio coverage along the NSW coastline from Point Danger to Eden, 20 to 30 nautical miles out to sea," Mr Cribb said.

"It's a win for boaters inshore and offshore."

Mr Cribb, who often competes in blue water sailing events such as the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race,

knows only too well the importance of a reliable marine radio safety net.

"As an avid offshore sailor, I am absolutely confident that if we are in a coastal region and something goes wrong, we'll be heard on VHF marine radio," he said.

"The ever alert volunteers in Marine Rescue bases up and down the coast will be listening."

Mr Cribb said this peak boating season MRNSW was increasing efforts to encourage boaters to switch to VHF for superior marine radio coverage.

"It's a smart decision," he said.

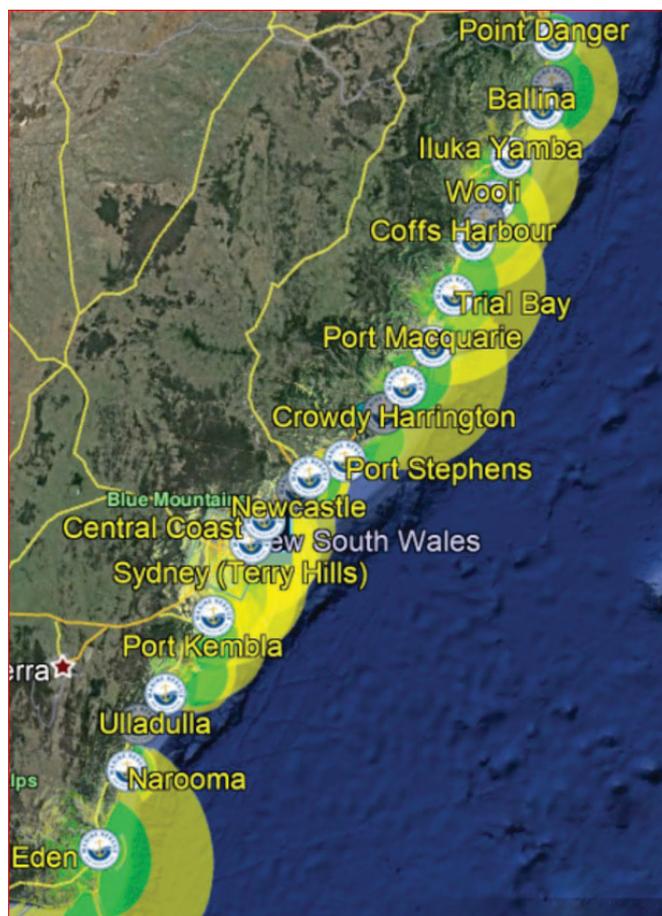
"We recommend VHF over 27MHz because VHF has better range, clearer communication and more people actively monitor it.

"VHF marine radios can also be linked to a Global Positioning System, making it easier for water safety agencies to locate boaters in trouble.

"The old 27MHz sets just don't compete. They are susceptible to static and have reduced coverage compared to VHF."

Mr Cribb said the price difference between the two types of radios used to be significant but there was now much less of a gap.

Most of the recreational boaters who visited the MRNSW stand in the Boating Safety Zone at the Sydney



The final frontier ... once projects on the South Coast are completed, the VHF marine radio safety net will stretch along the NSW coastline from Queensland to Victoria.

International Boat Show in August said they used VHF marine radio, with only a handful clinging to 27 MHz. For VHF marine radio courses

check with your local Marine Rescue unit or consult the MRNSW website at marinerescuensw.com.au

Brendan Trembath

Make the switch from 27MHz today

VHF Channel 16 is the national and international distress, safety and calling channel for marine radio users.

The channel is monitored around the clock by MRNSW units along the NSW coastline.

Boaters should always call for assistance on VHF Ch 16 to maximise their chance of getting Vital Help Fast in an emergency.

Using this channel means that not

only will MRNSW bases along the coastline hear you but so will other boaters nearby, who may be able to reach you quickly to help.

While MRNSW radio bases monitor both VHF and 27MHz marine radio channels along the coastline, a VHF set will provide you with better range and higher quality communication.

A 27MHz radio is a basic entry-level marine radio with an effective

range of 10-15 nautical miles, usually limited to "line of sight".

The effective range of a VHF radio is up to 20 nautical miles and often much further, depending on the elevation of land-based receiving stations.

A VHF radio with Digital Selective Calling (DSC) and GPS connectivity functions will provide you with even greater safety and convenience.

A DSC-equipped radio can send



a distress signal with a single push of a button.

When equipped with GPS, it also sends the location of the vessel.

Hearty donation to help save more lives

Defibrillators give patients a greater chance of surviving a cardiac arrest.

An estimated 23,000 Australians will suffer a sudden cardiac arrest each year - and there's no guarantee that it won't happen during a day out on the water.

The survival rate is 70 per cent if a defibrillator is used within the first five to 10 minutes of the arrest.

The icare Foundation is now donating 15 defibrillators to community organisations, including Marine Rescue NSW.

Deputy Commissioner Dean Storey thanked icare for its generous donation.

"These vital devices will help our professionally trained volunteers save lives on and near the water," he said. "We have progressively equipped boats and bases with defibrillators and ensured that our volunteers are trained in their use."

The defibrillators were initially purchased for the 2018 Invictus Games. As part of the NSW Government insurer, the icare Foundation supported the games and joined St John Ambulance NSW to provide first aid training to 1,000 volunteers and locate defibrillators across event sites.

icare Chief of Customer and Community Sara Kahlua said the Foundation had invited long-term injured workers, road-users and their families to the event.

"We wanted to give our customers and their families an opportunity to attend the games and experience an event that celebrates recovery, rehabilitation and the importance of community and social connection," she said.

St John Ambulance NSW CEO



icare General Manager of Agency Engagement Britt Coombe hands over defibrillators to Emergency Systems Manager Andrew Cribb as Brad Whittaker, Rodney Page and Stuart Massey practice RWC drills.

Sarah Lance said St John had been delighted to work with icare and was equally excited to see the defibrillators donated to vital organisations like MRNSW.

"St John are passionate about seeing more defibrillators placed in the community, as we know that they can make a significant difference in saving lives," she said.



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Volunteers talk safety at biggest boat show

Visitors reassured to know modern rescue service ready to respond.

The spacious and sturdy search and rescue boat *Cottage Point 30* was one of the stars of the Sydney International Boat Show in early August, with hundreds of boaters coming on board for an inspection.

MR Cottage Point Training Officer Mike Evans said the visitors had been impressed by the 12 metre vessel's advanced Suzuki twin engines, Raymarine navigation and radar display screens and first aid equipment.

"Many of our visitors said they hoped they would never have to call on us but were reassured to know that MRNSW has professionally trained volunteers and a modern fleet ready to respond," he said.

Twenty Cottage Point volunteers were rostered on through the show, which ran from August 1 to 5, to help guide guests through the vessel.

Nearly 30 other volunteers from MR Botany Port Hacking, Central Coast, Evans Head, Hawkesbury, Middle Harbour, Port Jackson, Port Kembla, Port Macquarie, Port Stephens, Shellharbour and Terrey Hills helped with the boat tours and on the MRNSW stand in the Boating Safety Zone in the International Convention Centre.

"It was fabulous," MR Botany Port Hacking member Terri-Mae



Cottage Point 30 proved a drawcard on the marina at the 2019 Sydney International Boat Show. MR Central Coast's Anthony Porter and MR Cottage Point Deputy Unit Commander Neil Jones and member David Cocks welcome show visitors aboard. Photo: Brendan Trembath.

Fitzgerald said. "It was lovely working with colleagues and the general public; they were very supportive."

With more than 60,000 people visiting the show over five days, the MRNSW members were kept busy answering questions about Logging On, the free *MarineRescue* App, lifejackets, VHF marine radio, radio courses and recruitment. The Boating Safety Zone also included the NSW Police Force Marine Area Command, NSW Roads and Maritime Services, the Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Maritime

Safety Authority and Department of Primary Industries.

Jeff Ballard, from MR Port Kembla, enjoyed engaging with the boating community.

"It was really good. There were lots of questions from boaters and it was satisfying to give them information that they needed," he said.

Boating Industry Association General Manager of Marketing and Events Domenic Genua said the intention this year had been to take SIBS visitors on a journey.

"Our desire was to share all that

is good about recreational boating," he said.

CP 30 returned to its base the day after the show concluded.

Mike Evans said the voyage had helped brush up on navigation skills.

"It was an excellent training opportunity," he said. "The crew used a hand bearing compass to fix the boat's location off Blue Fish Point at North Head and again off Long Reef and the boat's electronic equipment to take a radar range and bearing in the vicinity of Barrenjoey Lighthouse."

Brendan Trembath



MR Port Kembla member Jeff Ballard was on hand to explain the superior safety benefits of VHF marine radio to boaters.



Sydney crew on the MRNSW stand ... Brian West (Terrey Hills), Barley Stewart (Broken Bay) and Gerard Kaudeer (Port Jackson).



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Archivist donates volunteer memorabilia

Retired member on crusade to save history from being discarded.

In the basement of his Sydney home Peter Woods has kept a treasure trove of volunteer marine rescue memorabilia, from thousands of photographs and newspaper clippings to early boating safety films.

He had an impressive range of uniforms, epaulettes and shoulder boards, the most elaborate trimmed with gold braid and brass buttons, and rare documents such as a 1942 register of Volunteer Coastal Patrol ships and skippers.

Some of his archive showed the lighter side of volunteering on the water, like a certificate ribbing crew members who fell overboard.

The "Seals Club" certificate proclaimed: "This act was observed and duly sworn as being without any forethought, nor was the body pushed shoved or pulled, but accidentally fell into Davy Jones' Domain."

An early boating safety film, *Safe Boating*, produced by The Sun newspaper, features Volunteer Coastal Patrol members demonstrating safe practices on the water with their magnificent privately-owned Halverson cruisers.

One segment on the danger of overcrowding vessels uses trick camera work to show a seemingly endless line of volunteers exiting a small boat.

"Some of it is humourous, some of it serious and still worthwhile having a look at because it is still valid today as it was in 1962," Mr Woods said.

The volunteer archivist has kindly donated his collection to MRNSW State Headquarters so more people can enjoy and appreciate it. He started collecting memorabilia about 30 years ago when the son of a late Division Commander called him and said "Dad has died. All Dad's Coastal Patrol stuff - would you like it?"

"I'll be there in 20 minutes," Mr Woods responded. "I made it my crusade, if you like, to exhort people, 'don't throw it away, give it to me.'"

Some of the images he collected were used in the MRNSW 10th anniversary video posted on Facebook.

Mr Woods joined the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol in 1976 and transferred to MRNSW after it was formed in July 2009. He retired from MRNSW in July last year.



Archivist Peter Woods with some of the collection of volunteer memorabilia he has donated to MRNSW.

"I had wonderful times boating and learned an awful lot about the maritime life," he said. His mother and son also were volunteers.

He marvels how much the Marine Rescue fleet has changed since he first became a volunteer.

"In the old days it was all

privately owned boats," which had its limitations, he said. "As the older members died their big boats went and were replaced by little runabouts, the boats required for rescuing were not available privately anymore."

Brendan Trembath

New videos capture emergency action

Two new videos have been released showcasing the skill and pace of MRNSW emergency operations to save lives on the water.

The videos are aimed at supporting units' recruitment activities to attract new members to their ranks.

Media and Marketing Manager Brendan Trembath said much of Marine Rescue's work took place offshore, out of sight of the community.

"These videos give people an appreciation of what it's like to be racing to the scene of an

emergency, knowing that minutes can mean the difference between life and death," he said.

"They also highlight the variety of roles our members fulfil and the benefits of volunteering, including giving back to the community, acquiring valuable work skills and making new mates."

Produced by Michael Guest, the producer and host of the popular Reel Action TV fishing program on the 10 Network, the videos were shot offshore from Swansea Heads and on the Swansea Channel, featuring MR Lake Macquarie's members, vessels and radio base.



Lake Macquarie 20 in action in the new MRNSW recruitment videos.

Copies of the videos have been distributed to units and they feature on the MRNSW Facebook page.

The videos were produced with

the assistance of an Emergency Volunteer Support Scheme grant funded by the State and Federal governments.

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What we've been up to



Loud and clear ... 50 radio operators and watch officers from Northern Rivers Region units assemble in front of the new MRNSW mobile incident command vehicle during a professional development day at Ballina on July 20. The communications specialists spent the day honing their marine radio skills and the use of radio over internet technology.



Doubling up ... MR Newcastle crew members, used to operating in a single vessel unit, jumped ship on to X Ray 21 for a valuable training session with Newcastle 30.



Honour ... Commissioner Stacey Tannos pins the Commendation for Courage medal on MR Port Macquarie Leading Crew member Chris Condon, recognising his bravery in saving three lives at sea (see P3).



Achievement ... Mid North Coast Regional Operations Manager Randall Gawne presents MR Crowdy Harrington Unit Commander Bek Brown with her five-year service pin on September 5.



Happy in the service ... MR Point Danger members Peter and Beverley Hunt at the official hand-over of the new MRNSW mobile command vehicle (see story Page 5).

Red sky at night, rescued sailors' delight

Wooli crew launches dusky operation to fuel boat's Clarence bar crossing.

The crew of *Wooli 30* launched a sunset rescue operation on a mid-winter's evening to ensure a sailing vessel could reach safe harbour on the Northern Rivers.

The crew set out to resupply fuel to the boat, which was making slow progress under sail in light conditions on July 9 and wanted engine power to cross the Clarence River bar.

Wooli 30 intercepted the vessel just on dark 3.5nm east of Minnie Water.

Forty litres of diesel were transferred to the boat's crew and *Wooli 30* stood by while they successfully bled the fuel system.

The empty fuel drums were floated back to *Wooli 30* on a line. Great care was taken with the last drum, which had tied to it a zip bag containing a donation for the fuel.

The rescue vessel then headed south on a good 13nm run back to

Wooli in clear night conditions.

MR Wooli's radio base provided radio coverage for the week-long Wooli Snapper Fishing Competition in early August.

The competition is catch and release with the prize structure designed to encourage sustainable fishing.

The unit's volunteers put in a significant effort to support the competition, enjoying the satisfaction of being part of a community event.

With the base's radio operators providing a marine radio safety watch over the competitors, a rescue vessel crew was on standby each day to provide a rapid response to any emergencies.

A number of whales reported to have been entangled in marine debris have passed through our waters over winter, along with



Wooli 30 skipper Richard Taffs captured this shot on approach to a sailboat on dusk. The vessel, which needed fuel, was requested to display all available lights to help pinpoint its location.

competitors in the Sydney to Gold Coast Yacht Race in late July.

The unit took part in a local emergency services information session on August 19, helping

residents prepare for the approaching summer storm, bushfire and boating season and encouraging people to consider volunteering.

Stranded family finds help at end of rainbow

Point Danger volunteers demonstrate skill at community events.

A father and his two children were swiftly returned to safety when their Sunday jet ski ride ended in a breakdown off Rainbow Bay on August 10.

MR Point Danger skipper Jan Trueman and crew members Courtney Greenslade, Eddie Fuller and Marianne Ash were quickly on the scene on board *Point Danger 30* to take the jetski under tow.

Five unit members joined their colleagues from the Northern Rivers and Mid North Coast regions to help MR Brunswick christen its new training centre on August 3.

Courtney Greenslade, Marianne Ash, Gavin Bond, Alex Banks and Cindy Munro were among members from the Queensland border south to Port Macquarie to take part in a day of firefighting and sea survival training, the first course held in the

new waterfront centre.

Emergency Services Minister David Elliott, Tweed MP Geoff Provest and Commissioner Stacey Tannos visited the unit on July 12 for the official hand-over of the new MRNSW mobile command vehicle.

The unit has continued its program of familiarising its radio operators with rescue vessel operations and the many fishing spots and other locations that are popular with our offshore boaters.

In the latest excursion, four radio operators recently boarded *PD 30* and headed over the bar.

Our volunteers have seized the opportunity to engage with the community at two recent events.

At the Tweed River Public School Career Market, volunteers gave pupils hands-on experience in the use of marine radios and



Safely home ... *Point Danger 30* crew Marianne Ash, skipper Jan Trueman, Courtney Greenslade and Eddie Fuller with two children rescued with their dad when their jet ski broke down.

training mannequins. The All Emergency Services Expo at Jack Evans Boat Harbour on May 26 gave unit members the chance to demonstrate their skills and operations to a large audience.

PD 20 was moored in the boat harbour, with members giving a flare demonstration, providing boating safety information and cooking a popular sausage sizzle.

Dale Leo

Evans volunteers inspire next generation

Unit promotes boating safety to annual fishing classic competitors.

As members doubled their operations for the annual fishing classic in July, MR Evans Head had an eye on the future, winning over a new generation of potential volunteers.

Pupils from schools in the small villages dotted around the Northern Rivers recently came together for a combined excursion to learn about the work of the unit's volunteers to watch over local boaters and visitors to the popular tourist town.

The children, years three and four students from Stratheden, Manifold, Mummulgum, Doubtful Creek, Leeville and Rappville schools, gathered to enjoy the vista from the Razorback Lookout above the unit's base.

Members Kerry Turpin, Jim Roberts and Ian and Donna Murray pointed out local landmarks, navigation aids, passing ships and our river entrance.

The children were enthralled to watch as "Poppa Joe" Medina tracked and identified passing boats on our Seahawk vessel tracking system.

Thanks to all our members who assisted with this valuable community engagement with the potential volunteers of the future.

This year's Evans Head Fishing Classic was conducted in a sizeable swell on most days.

The organisers shortened the event by a day and another was lost due to a strong wind warning.

Plenty of good fish were caught in the 'catch, photograph and release' competition and the town benefited from the influx of visitors and business.

Evans 30 was called to rescue two boats with mechanical problems, resulting in lengthy tows of 17.2nm and 9.6nm.

The unit takes the opportunity during the Classic to promote safe boating to all competitors, focusing on the importance of Logging On



Future members ... students from six Northern Rivers schools visit the MR Evans Head base to learn about the volunteers' work to protect the local and visiting boating community.

with MRNSW and demonstrating the use of the *MarineRescue* App.

Our radio base hours were extended for the competition, with six radio operators rostered on over three shifts a day.

This was double the operators' normal commitment and members backed up to sell raffle tickets to competitors each evening.

As usual, we joined forces with Casino Evans Head Surf Lifesaving on fundraising activities, raffling meat and fish trays and a major overall prize, which was drawn on the last night.

In a great result, our share of the proceeds was more than \$3,000.

This year's major prize, a \$450 voucher, was won by our own trainee radio operator George Smart, from Coraki.

The unit's leadership team, Commander Kira Hartland and Deputy Karin Brown, stood down at the elections at our Annual General Meeting.

Andrew Adams was elected as the new Unit Commander.

Bill Bates

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Brunswick makes its own sea change

Unit opens first dedicated training facility on the harbourfront.

Marine Rescue Brunswick has made a sea change, moving into its first dedicated office, training and meeting facility on the waterfront.

Located next to the Brunswick Harbour, the new building has already proven a great asset, hosting a sea survival and flares course for members of units from Point Danger to Port Macquarie within a month of its completion.

As the unit expands its capability, the centre is the venue for training for two new Coxswains, two Leading Crew, four new Crew members and three new Radio Operators.

Unit Commander Jonathon Wilcock said the new building provided the unit with its own training and meeting facilities for the first time in its history.

He said its prominent position between the boat harbour and the

town's ever-busy boat ramp also would help raise the unit's profile in the local community and with visiting boaters.

"A facility like this will allow our members to continually upgrade their skills to help keep the local boating community safer on the water," he said.

The facility was many years in the planning, involving lengthy negotiations with Crown Lands.

Special thanks to MRNSW Property Officer David Lyall, Northern Rivers Regional Operations Manager John Murray and Headquarters staff for their hard work on the project.

In early June, the crew of *Brunswick 30* was activated to join the large land and sea search operation involving numerous emergency services and community members to locate 18-year-old Belgian backpacker Theo Hayez,



MR Brunswick members Sylvia Van Rossum, Bill Spicer, Roger Bowden, UC Jonathan Wilcock, Roy Drew, Mark Baker, Otto Vornegger and DUC Barry McIntosh outside their new offices.

who went missing in Byron Bay late on May 31.

The unit's radio tower at the mouth of the Brunswick River has had a high-profile role in recent activities in town.

Eagle-eyed television viewers may have spotted the tower, transformed into the Pearl Bay Coastguard

station, in the new series of *Seachange*, which was filmed in Brunswick Heads.

Cast member John Howard, reprising his role as Bob Jelly in the Channel 9 reboot, hosted the unit's Sink or Swing fundraiser at the Brunswick Picture House in June.

David Parkinson

SOLAS grant bolsters Ballina search capacity

New volunteer recruits in training ahead of peak boating season.

An influx of new volunteers has boosted MR Ballina's membership by almost a third.

The 17 recruits, who have taken the unit's total numbers to 70, have started training in the lead-up to the peak summer boating season.

Members have thanked the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia SOLAS Trusts for an \$18,000 grant to improve the unit's search and rescue capability by upgrading the Raymarine Multi Function Device navigation equipment and installing fore and aft cameras on board vessel *Ballina 30*.

The cameras will enable incident recording and assist the crew member at the helm to be able to see what is happening behind the vessel when towing.

BA 30 was recently tasked

to shadow a juvenile whale that had entered the Richmond River entangled in floats. The crew turned the calf around and escorted it back to sea so it could continue its journey north, with Seaworld on the Gold Coast to be deployed to attempt to remove the floats.

In another generous show of support, the Shaws Bay Fishing Club has presented the unit with a donation of \$500.

The unit has had a change of leadership, with Zsolt Mankowsky elected Unit Commander. Zsolt joined MR Ballina in mid-2014 and is a qualified radio operator.

He has previously spent many years as a ski patroller with Mt Buller Ski Rescue and is a Coxswain and MED3. Members expressed their gratitude to former Commander



Board Director Pat Fayers and Chair Jim Glissan present new Ballina UC Zsolt Mankowsky with a commemorative 10-year plaque.

Doug Hunter for his contribution over the past two years

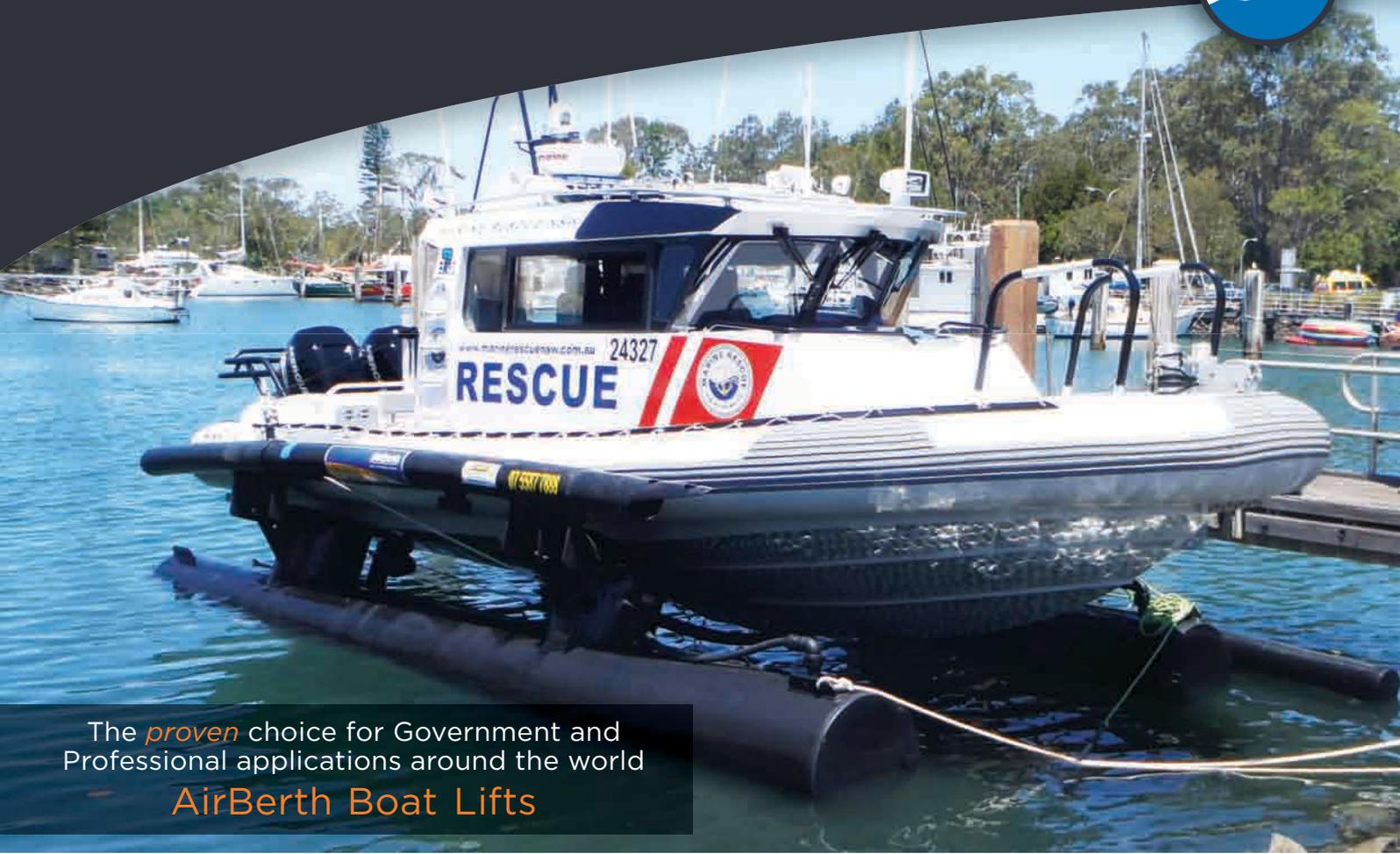
Members have continued to gain new qualifications to increase the unit's operational capability.

Deputy Unit Commander Phil Causley attained his Coxswain rating in June and Ken Delany and Ray Tennent have qualified as much-

needed Watch Officers.

Three members have been presented with the National Medal to recognise 15 years' individual service to the community.

Congratulations to Lorraine Leuckel, Lenore Nurse and Tanya Binning for this acknowledgment of their diligent community service.



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New resource strengthens river response

Solar power saves Crowdy Harrington money for operations, training.

The 90th vessel delivered by MRNSW in its first decade arrived at MR Crowdy Harrington in June.

The \$273,000 6.8m Naid *Crowdy 20* is a rapid response resource, increasing the unit's efficiency in deploying to incidents on the Manning River and up to 7nm offshore.

Featuring a centre console, the boat is fitted with foam-filled sponsons, which are more resistant in the region's prevailing hot conditions than the air-filled versions on its 6m forerunner.

It also has the ability to lower stairs from the bow, an asset in landing on the beach to rescue people and transport patients.

The new vessel is housed on its trailer at the unit's training facility and boat shed for speedy activation.

A \$9,200 State Government

grant presented by then Emergency Services Minister Troy Grant and Port Macquarie MP Leslie Williams in 2017 helped fund the trailer.

"This funding will help ensure our volunteers have the equipment they need to keep us safe in the water," Mr Grant said at the time.

The installation of solar panels on the training centre has been completed. The solar power system and two new unit support vehicles were funded with an \$84,900 Infrastructure Grant last year.

The solar system allows the unit to save money on its electricity bills, which can instead be used for our operations and training.

Amid few call-outs over a quiet winter, crews assisted the National Parks and Wildlife Service in missions to help entangled whales.

Members have continued to build capability, with Wayne



Mid North Coast Regional Operations Manager Randall Gawne delivers the new *Crowdy 20* to its home base.

Seach passing both his Crew and Radio Operator assessments and Margaret Stringer and Peter Barber

also gaining their radio operator qualifications.

Mary Thomas

Koala kapers confound coxswain

Trial Bay makes SOS call for help to save soggy marsupial.

MR Trial Bay coxswain Peter Holyfield was surprised by an unexpected visitor when he arrived at the unit's rescue vessel pontoon on August 23.

A soggy koala was sunning itself on the jet ski ramp after a dip in the Macleay River.

Help was quickly on hand after unit radio operator Robbie Mills contacted local wildlife rescue service FAWNA to assist with the little marsupial's rescue.

Arriving from Port Macquarie, the FAWNA volunteer informed us we had a young female about 12 months of age.

Despite dripping wet from her swim, she seemed in good health, swiping the catcher for his trouble.

After being placed in a cage and driven to Port Macquarie, our wild koala was tagged and micro

chipped. She was returned the next day fit and healthy and released back to the wild in our local area.

Another wildlife rescue proved the curtain-raiser for a Regional Search and Rescue Exercise hosted by the Trial Bay unit in mid-July.

As crews were gathering at the unit's training centre, a passing group of youths threw a white duck that had been painted blue out of their car.

Radio operators Jenny Edser and Loraine Barnett rescued the bird, handing over its care to FAWNA.

The SAREX involved volunteers from Trial Bay, Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour, Nambucca and Woolgoolga units, Mid North Coast Regional Operations Manager Randall Gawne, Regional Training Manager Rodney Page and members of South West Rocks Surf Life Saving and the NSW



Damp after her dip ... a young koala rescued by MR Trial Bay. Photo: Jan Norman.

Police Force Marine Area Command.

After a day studying the theory of search planning and execution, the crews put their learning into practice on the water.

Police released three search targets between Trial Bay and Scotts Head and all were recovered within two and a half hours.

Lorraine Barnett

Crowd gathers to welcome \$335,000 vessel

Ocean Cylinder gives Forster-Tuncurry greater operational flexibility.

About 50 guests gathered on the waterfront to celebrate the commissioning of MR Forster-Tuncurry's new \$335,000 rescue vessel on July 19.

Member for Myall Lakes Stephen Bromhead, Mid Coast Council Mayor David West and MRNSW Deputy Commissioner Dean Storey and Board Directors joined the unit's volunteers to officially welcome *Forster 20 (Wallis Lake)* at the unit's boat base on Forster's Southern Breakwall.

Mr Bromhead said boaters were safer on local waterways with the addition of the new rapid response search and rescue vessel.

He said it would enhance the region's rescue resources and capability, boosting the safety of boaters on the popular local waterways.

"Marine Rescue Forster-Tuncurry saves many lives on the water and requires first class assets to reach people in distress safely and swiftly," Mr Bromhead said. "Our local volunteers underpin the safety of recreational and commercial boaters in this region.

"The NSW Government is proud



Official guests, including MRNSW Directors, join members of MR Forster-Tuncurry at the commissioning of *Forster 20 (Wallis Lake)*. Photo: Brendan Trembath.

to support the amazing volunteers from MRNSW, who give their time and energy to respond to emergencies on the water and operate the State's marine radio network.

"The Government's investment of \$37.6 million in MRNSW over the coming four years is the biggest funding injection in the service's history."

Forster 20, a 6.8 metre Ocean Cylinder, gives the unit greater operational flexibility, responding to emergencies on Wallis Lake and

up to 7nm offshore, with a crew of four. It supplements the open water capabilities of *Forster 30*.

Deputy Commissioner Storey said the new boat was among 91 new and refurbished rescue vessels delivered at a cost of more than \$21 million under the ongoing MRNSW Fleet Modernisation Program.

"Forster-Tuncurry is one of the State's premier boating locations," he said.

"The unit's rescue crews responded to 58 emergencies in the past year and its radio operators

tracked nearly 3,000 vessel voyages, watching over about 9,000 boaters to ensure they returned safely to shore."

Unit Commander David Gibson welcomed the new vessel.

"She's a beauty, proudly built in NSW," Mr Gibson said.

"It's very satisfying to have a purpose-built boat equipped with search and rescue, navigation and advanced first aid equipment."

The unit's Breakwall Belles prepared a delicious morning tea for the commissioning event.

Units join forces to transport injured sailor

A crew from MR Coffs Harbour was quickly on the water when a mono hull yacht beached early in the morning of August 29.

The yacht, which had come off a mooring, was successfully refloated.

The crew of *Coffs 30* responded to assist the vessel, reporting there were no injuries to those on board nor apparent damage to the vessel.

Radio operator Patrick Smyth, on duty overnight in the 24-hour MR Coffs Harbour radio base, orchestrated the rescue of an injured sailor on board a 39 foot yacht in the Macleay River at South

West Rocks on June 18.

The yachtsman had fallen in the galley, injuring his hip and shoulder. He spoke to a friend by phone, saying he was okay and would call later. When he failed to call or respond to calls and text messages, his concerned friend contacted MR Coffs Harbour. Patrick alerted his colleagues at MR Trial Bay, with Jon Cragg and Peter Holyfield responding on *Trial Bay 30* to check on the man's welfare.

As a result, he was transported to shore to a waiting ambulance and transferred to Kempsey Hospital.



Coffs 30 successfully refloats a yacht that beached at Coffs Harbour early in the morning on August 29.

Recruit raises alarm on boater in trouble

Members earn praise for seamless operation to rescue disabled tinny.

New member of MR Lemon Tree Passage Elisabeth Burton has been congratulated after sounding the alarm on an unfolding incident in poor conditions on Tanilba Bay.

Elisabeth was standing on the foreshore on a grey Sunday afternoon with wind, rain and a rough sea pounding the inside waters of Port Stephens when she observed a small tinny apparently in some trouble.

The person on board appeared to be making what looked to be several unsuccessful attempts to start the motor. With the strong southerly blowing the tinny out of the bay in the direction of Snapper Island, Elisabeth called the unit's radio base at 2.19pm to report the incident.

Radio operator Dave Davies activated a response, calling in the duty skipper and boat crew and alerting Hunter/Central Coast

Regional Operations Manager Steve Raymond.

Lemon Tree 30, with skipper Clem Doyle and crew Dennis Coyne and John Scholl aboard, headed out en route to Snapper Island.

Soon after reaching the area the crew spotted an exhausted, thirsty but otherwise uninjured boater on a tender with a failed motor and no oars or anchor.

The man, who was not wearing a lifejacket, had tied himself into the boat to prevent being flung out by the rough sea and had tied a buoyancy vest to the boat's painter.

He explained that a friend had asked him to motor the tender from Tanilba Bay to Lemon Tree Passage, where his friend would meet him.

He was taken on board *LT 30* and provided with first aid for dehydration. The crew took the tender under tow, returning the tired



MR Lemon Tree Passage Skipper Clem Doyle, Unit Commander Rick Tyler and new recruit Elisabeth Burton, who raised the alarm of a boater in trouble.

and relieved boater to the Lemon Tree Passage jetty at 3.45pm.

Unit Commander Rick Tyler said the incident could have ended very differently if Elisabeth had not taken the initiative to call for help for the boater.

"This boater was fortunate that Elisabeth happened to spot him in

trouble and as a new recruit to our unit, knew the procedure to get him help fast," he said.

"This was a seamless response by all the members involved, who worked together to bring this boater safely back to shore. Congratulations to them all for their efforts."

Caroline Liddicoat

New leaders take helm at Central Coast unit

A new leadership team has stepped into place at MR Central Coast.

Incoming Unit Commander Mark Sheehan was elected unopposed, while Deputy Unit Commander Adrian Davies was elected by majority vote at the unit's Annual General Meeting.

Former Unit Commander Roger Palmer retired from the role after serving three consecutive terms.

Hunter/Central Coast Regional Operations Manager Steve Raymond acknowledged Roger's contribution and achievements, including managing the amalgamation of the former Central Coast and Terrigal units, replacement of the unit's three primary rescue vessels, introduction of a Rescue Water Craft and radio base modernisation.

UC Sheehan said the unit's focus now would be on further

strengthening the unit's capability to respond to the needs of the boating community.

The unit has had the opportunity to assist with a project focusing on a well-known and fondly remembered piece of its history. Max Landells, Bob Sullivan and George Kowalski, on board *Central Coast 30*, assisted the Australian Navy School Hawkesbury at Point Clare with the production of a documentary on the *MV Krait*.

The documentary is tracing training activities in the Hawkesbury River area ahead of the historic raid by Z Force commandos, on board the *Krait*, on shipping in Singapore Harbour in 1943. Operating as a timber barge in Borneo after the war, the little boat was returned to Australia and restored by members of the Volunteer Coastal Patrol in 1964. It was later used as a training



Volunteers on film ... Bob Sullivan, Max Landells and George Kowalski assist with the production of a documentary on the *MV Krait*.

vessel until being handed over to Australian War Memorial in 1985.

The then Central Coast RVCP was responsible for the maintenance of the *Krait* in 1979 and 1980, including overhauling its diesel engine.

The crew of *CC 30* transported

the film crew to Refuge Bay, a remote area on Broken Bay where the Z Force troops trained.

In a first for the production team, a member of the film crew deployed a drone from the front deck of the rescue vessel to film the waterway.

Mitch Giles

Capsize claims three lives in rough seas

Newcastle crews at frontline of both tragic and memorable events.

Crews from MR Newcastle and Port Stephens were tasked with the grim responsibility of retrieving three people who died when their catamaran overturned in rough seas about 7nm off the Stockton coast on July 11.

Rescue services responded to an emergency beacon activated about 10.10am, with the Westpac Rescue Helicopter winching a 16-year-old girl and her 50-year-old father off the capsized 11.7m boat and transporting them to John Hunter Hospital to be treated for hypothermia.

The bodies of the girl's grandparents and a family friend were found in the water and returned to shore at Carrington by the crews of *Newcastle 30* and *Port Stephens 31*.

All five people, travelling from Port Stephens to the Central Coast, were wearing lifejackets.

Deputy Commissioner Dean Storey thanked the crews for their professional and compassionate response to the triple fatality.

"Our thoughts are with the family

and friends of those lost. Tragedies such as this are also confronting for those who accept the responsibility of responding to help people caught in the most traumatic of circumstances," he said.

The importance of faith to some in the emergency services 'family' was recognised at the Sea Sunday Service at Newcastle's Christ Church Cathedral on July 21. Member Helen Carter represented the unit, reading one of the lessons at the service.

In a memorable occasion, *NC 30* escorted *HMAS Newcastle* on her final voyage from Newcastle Harbour before being decommissioned on June 30. Dwarfed by the 138m frigate, *NC 30* received a cheer from the ship's crew as she headed out into the Tasman and south to Sydney.

NC 30 also has responded to two offshore incidents in recent months. In mid-August, the crew of Ron Calman, Ian Morrow, Mick Quill and Wayne Bissett headed out in blustery and bumpy conditions on a five-hour mission to return a 40 foot yacht to safety. The vessel, with



Crews from MR Newcastle and Port Stephens responded when this catamaran overturned off the Stockton coast in July.

three people on board, had suffered engine failure and damaged sails 12nm north east of Newcastle.

Earlier, *NC 30* was tasked to North Reef to assist a 4.9m runabout with two people on board.

Terry Reynolds, Rick Nevile, Mick Quill and new member Susan Coleman towed the vessel to Carrington Ramp without incident.

As a 'one boat' unit, Newcastle always jumps at the opportunity of training with another MRNSW vessel. Hunter/Central Coast Regional Operations Manager Steve

Raymond facilitated a training session on board support vessel *X-Ray 21*, giving our crew and trainees a few hours of 'towing alongside', long towing and other close quarter activities.

A number of members were recognised at the June unit meeting. Warren Bramble and Paul Hardie received their Radio Operator ratings, Don Roser was awarded his five year Long Service Medal and Joe Benton received his Watch Officer rating. Congratulations all.

Terry Reynolds

Lamborghini not setting speed records

Norah Head farewells trusty launch tractor after 14 years' service.

Marine Rescue NSW has traded in its Lamborghini on a newer model.

Surf and sand eventually took their toll on the Lamborghini tractor that had towed MR Norah Head rescue vessels across the sand to launch off the beach for 14 years.

The tractor has moved to greener pastures, making way for its replacement, \$48,000 Landini model that will now be used to launch and retrieve *Norah Head 20*.

A Central Coast Council grant for \$33,000 assisted with two-thirds of the cost of the new piece of equipment, with Inlon at Ourimbah

giving the unit the best deal possible and customising the tractor to best suit our operations in the challenging environment.

Ground has finally been broken for construction of the unit's long awaited boat shed, which will be accommodate *NR 20* on its trailer permanently hooked up to the tractor for rapid emergency deployment.

The project is scheduled to be completed in October, with members looking forward to seeing construction under way in coming weeks.

Unit crews have dedicated



MR Norah Head farewells its Lamborghini and welcomes a new Landini tractor to launch and retrieve *NR 20* across the beach.

time during winter to training with neighbouring MR Lake Macquarie and jointly responded to the search

for a missing fisherman at Timber Beach on July 7.

Julie Rostron

Two units join search for missing fisherman

Lake Macquarie members honoured for 140 years' service to boaters.

Volunteers from MR Lake Macquarie and MR Norah Head were called to put their joint training into practice in a multi-agency search for a missing fisherman swept off rocks at Timber Beach in early July.

The two units had staged several combined training sessions to ensure their seamless coordination in response to emergencies on the coastline.

The 60-year-old fisherman was reported missing in the water on Sunday, July 7. Both *Lake Macquarie 20* and *Norah Head 20* joined the NSW Police Marine Area Command, Police divers and the PoAir, Surf Life Saving and the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue helicopters in the search operation along the coastline and up to four



Recognised for their sustained service ... MR Lake Macquarie members Jim Wright, Kevin Jennings, Noel Foran, Warren Collins, Alan Jones, Tony Milton, Vicky Richey, Brenda Spencer and Darryl Scotman.

nautical miles out to sea. The search continued for several days before the fisherman's body was recovered.

With the cooler weather, MR Lake Macquarie responded to fewer radio calls and just 32 incidents throughout May and June. This

has given our boat crews time to turn their attention to training and familiarisation on board *LM 20*, commissioned in late April.

In early August, the vessel's crew was tasked to investigate a partially submerged tinny creating a navigation hazard near Pulbah Island. It was located, pumped out and towed to the Pelican base.

Fourteen members have been recognised for 140 years' combined service to the Lake Macquarie boating community. Tony Milton was acknowledged for two decades of sustained service, while another 11 members received their 10-year

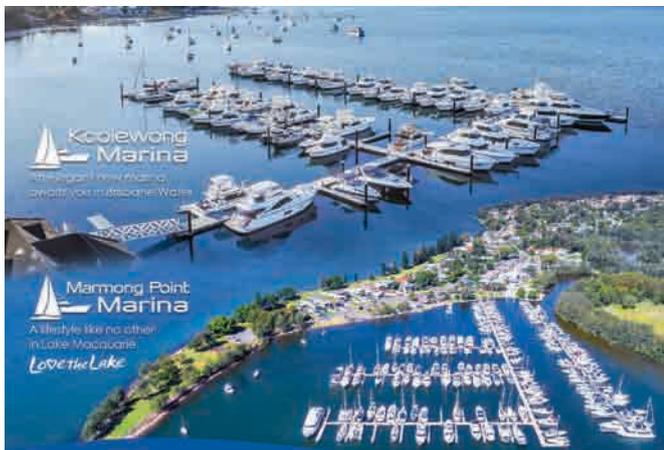
Long Service Medals and two more were recognised for five years' duty.

The unit has enjoyed a steady influx of recruits, who are busy learning new skills that will ensure they are ready for duty in the Swansea Heads radio base or on board our rescue vessels.

Our annual Open Day will be held at the Pelican boat base in October.

We are hoping for better weather this year to encourage the local community to come along and learn about our volunteers and operations and boating safety and to support the unit's fundraising.

Garry Luxton



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First artificial reef for Newcastle anglers

Newcastle's first artificial reef, with two massive reef pinnacle towers weighing 90 tonnes and standing 12 metres tall, has been installed off Blacksmiths Beach.

Agriculture Minister Adam Marshall said the reef was designed to support a large variety of fish species, especially bottom-dwelling and pelagic species popular with recreational fishers.

"Although the fish community will rapidly evolve and change in the next few years, patience is the key

as the reef will only improve with age," he said.

The towers were floated, towed and sunk remotely from a nearby tug, avoiding the use of barges and cranes on the open ocean.

The reef is located south of Newcastle Harbour at a sandy location off Blacksmiths Beach, about 3.5km north-east of the Swansea bar and about 28m deep.

The location was finalised after extensive seabed mapping and community consultation.

The answer wasn't blowing in the wind

Tuggerah Lakes horsepower gets becalmed catamarans on the move.

Marine Rescue Tuggerah Lakes has been spotted operating under wind power.

While on patrol on the lakes on Sunday, June 30, the crew of *Tuggerah Lakes 20* came across two catamarans from Toukley Sailing Club becalmed in Paddy's Channel off Terilba Island at The Entrance.

TL 20, skippered by Bob Sutton and crewed by John Wade and Craig Roberts, came to the sailors' assistance, rafting both vessels and delivering them to the greater lake where they were able to make it back to their base under sail.

One of the catamarans was skippered by the club president.

Unit member Don Hobbs was inducted as the chaplain of MR Tuggerah Lakes at the unit's August meeting.

Don is an operational crew member and through his chaplaincy will provide another valued service to our members and those in need we meet while fulfilling our role of saving lives on the water.

MRNSW Chaplain Reverend Richard Wrightson addressed the meeting about the chaplaincy role before joining Unit Commander Tony Younglove to present Don with his chaplain's stole.

We thank Don for his service.

Hunter/Central Coast Director Jim Wright also attended the meeting, congratulating Ken and Lorraine



Run out of puff ... the crew of *Tuggerah Lakes 20* rafts up two catamarans becalmed in Paddy's Channel.

Lawry, who have each recorded a decade's service to MRNSW.

Ken served for eight years as Deputy Unit Commander and Treasurer, while Lorraine fulfilled the Stores Officer's role.

The couple have long been the unit's fundraising dynamos.

UC Younglove praised the Lawrys'

immense contribution to the unit, particularly in driving our fundraising activities, amassing a total of about \$1 million.

Their stellar service and positive leadership has been an inspiration to our members and they are well recognised and regarded in the community for their untiring energy

in representing MRNSW.

The unit is now gearing up for the delivery of a new rescue vessel to replace the 10-year-old *TL 20*, which is reaching the end of its operational life.

It will be replaced by a new 6.8m Naiad.

Bob Sutton



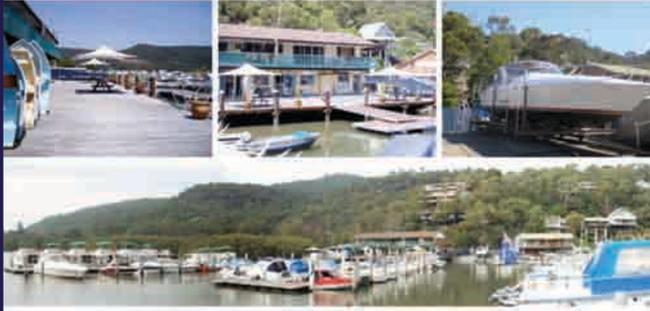
Unit Commander Tony Younglove and Director Jim Wright congratulate Ken and Lorraine Lawry on their 10 years of service.



Members of MR Tuggerah Lakes gather with Don Hobbs (seated far right) after his induction as unit chaplain.

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MAKING WAVES

Competition

Pride on the line in services challenge

Members invited to annual regatta.



MRNSW members should have an advantage on the water in the NSW Police and Emergency Services Regatta on Lake Macquarie.

Marine Rescue NSW members are once again invited to take part in the annual NSW Police and Emergency Services Regatta on Lake Macquarie.

This year's event will take place on November 18 and 19, hosted by the NSW Police Sailing Club in conjunction with the Royal Motor Yacht Club, Toronto.

The regatta is made up of up to five races over two days with a complimentary barbecue at the completion of each day's competition.

All races are non-spinnaker with two divisions: Under 30 foot and Over 30 foot.

The regatta is now in its tenth year on Lake Macquarie.

Entry is open to all retired/serving members of the emergency services including but not limited to State and Federal Police, Marine Rescue NSW and maritime authorities, the SES, VRA, fire brigades, ambulance services, Australian Defence Force and Corrective Services, with the size of the sailing craft being from trailerable upwards.

As a sign of goodwill the NSW

Police Sailing Club has also opened entry to all other yachts associated with yachting and sailing clubs on Lake Macquarie.

Over the past years, competing yachts have ranged from seven to more than 13 metres. The generous sponsorship of RMYC Toronto means prizes can be awarded to first and second places in each of the five races and an overall point score prize for first, second and third places.

A raffle will also be held for skippers and crew with prizes provided by a number of Lake Macquarie businesses, including Marmong Point Marina, Macquarie Moorings and Burke Marine.

RMYC Toronto has a boat ramp and ample parking for trailerable yachts.

Free overnight berthing and shower facilities at also available for competing yachts and crews on the club wharf.

Entry forms will be available on the RMYC Toronto website.

For all race enquiries, contact organiser David Blakemore at nswpfsailing@gmail.com

Life is what happens while you're training

Port Stephens crews encounter unexpected delights and emergencies.

Tuesday is boat crew training day at MR Port Stephens and our members never know what the day might bring.

A beautiful sight awaited the crew of *Port Stephens 31* as they departed the marina on a training run earlier this year. A frequent visitor to the bay, *Young Endeavour*, was anchored outside the breakwall, with the young crew exercising up in the rigging.

Later that same morning, *PS 31* was tasked to assist a 64 foot cruiser that had a failed engine and was unable to be steered normally.

PS 31 agreed to shadow the large vessel as it made its way into the D'Albora Marina. One of our crew went on board to help with lines if needed but the skilled skipper was able to berth without assistance.

On a regular monthly night training session, both our boats were engaged in towing practice when they were deployed offshore to the scene of an EPIRB activation.

Our vessels arrived in the vicinity of Shark Island at the same time as a rescue helicopter from RAAF base Williamstown. *PS 30* stood off while the helicopter crew skillfully winched three people off the island's beach.

PS 31 headed south to the last known position of the EPIRB transmission to start searching for any other people who might have been on board until it was confirmed all crew from the 12m yacht - which had sunk within minutes - were safely accounted for.

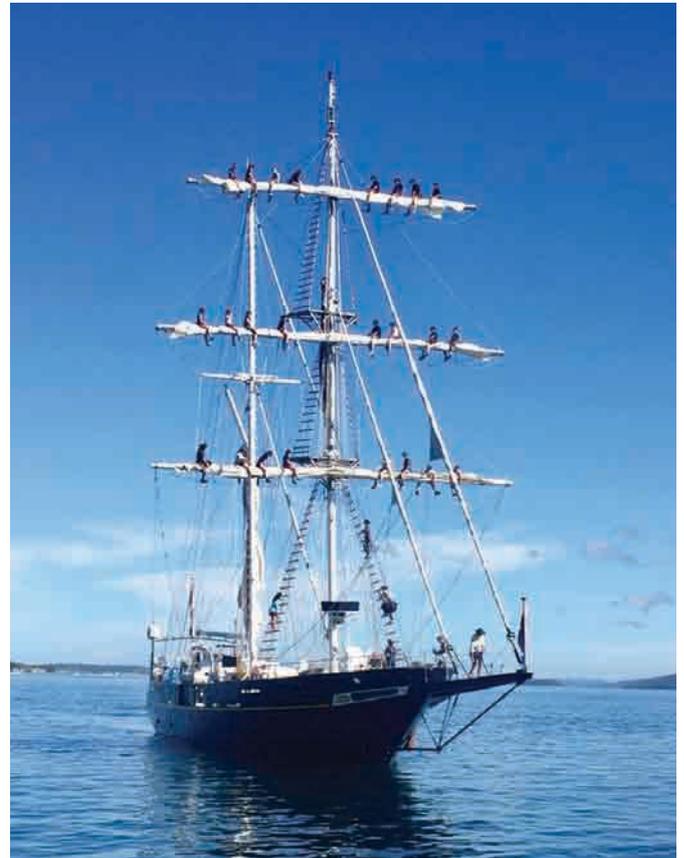
Launched in 1764 as a collier, *HMS Endeavour* was purchased by the British Navy in 1768 for a scientific mission to the Pacific Ocean.

On May 11, 1770, under the command of Lieutenant James Cook, it passed by Port Stephens on its passage north. Although the vessel did not enter, Cook named the bay after Secretary of the Admiralty, Philip Stephens.

On the same day 249 years later, *PS 31* was training offshore when the crew sighted the replica *HMB Endeavour* heading south off the coast of Port Stephens, this time flying an Australian Red Ensign. What a beautiful sight and amazing coincidence.

First aid training is a key part of our training as you never know when those learned skills will be called upon.

During a recent course, the chief



The crew of *Port Stephens 31* came upon the *Young Endeavour* as the youthful sailors on board were exercising in the rigging. Photo: Tony O'Donnell.

instructor was called away to the public wharf on the marina, where a member of a bucks party had

collapsed after a long night and needed immediate assistance.

Iain Blackadder

Five units deploy in mass search for cruiser

Rescue vessels from five MRNSW units were activated for a joint search for a missing motor cruiser with two people on board in August.

The cruiser left Swansea on August 5 but when it had not reached its destination at Forster the next day, the alarm was raised with Police Marine Area Command, which organised a search.

As the vessel, which had not Logged On, could have been anywhere on its planned route, vessels from MR Lake Macquarie, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Lemon

Tree Passage and Forster-Tuncurry began the search on August 7.

Several hours into the operation, *Port Stephens 31* located the cruiser off Broughton Island, where it had broken down without any radio communication and a flat mobile phone battery. The vessel was towed into Nelson Bay Marina, where it sank two days later.

This rescue shows the strength and capability of MRNSW units. Well done to all for quickly activating five rescue vessels to locate the distressed boat. All that rescue



The missing cruiser was returned to Nelsons Bay, later sinking.

coordination training has paid off.

The incident also reinforces the need to ensure your vessel is well maintained, Log On with MRNSW

and have the required safety equipment and ample provisions for your voyage.

Jim Wright

Hawkesbury responds to third river fatality

Crews prepare to keep safety watch on overnight canoe marathon.

After the deaths of two jet ski riders on the Hawkesbury River in February, crews from MR Hawkesbury again assembled to respond to a fatality on the waterway in July.

A three-year-old girl fell into the river from her family's yacht, moored off Brooklyn, on July 9.

The crews of *Hawkesbury 21* and *Hawkesbury 22* were responded but were stood down when the little girl was located about 100m from the boat and airlifted to Westmead Children's Hospital. A man also died in a water skiing incident on the river on August 14.

Crews have spent the winter months focusing on training, honing night navigation skills and practising manoeuvring and maintaining a

course in a swell. Seven members attended the Greater Sydney Regional Search and Rescue Exercise in June to hone and refresh their search skills.

The unit is busy preparing for the upcoming Hawkesbury Canoe Classic in late October. The annual marathon race requires all our crews to be operational as more than 400 paddlers attempt an overnight 111km paddle downstream from Windsor to Brooklyn.

MR Hawkesbury volunteers will provide safety checkpoints throughout the event, which raises funds for the Arrow Bone Marrow Transplant Foundation.

The unit again took part in the Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai Council Volunteer Day. Members John



Members of MR Hawkesbury during the Sydney SAREX at the Westpac Rescue Helicopter base ... Tony Cassin, Mark Neller, Sarah Adair, David Hytche (rear), Wendy Mitchell and Russell Harvey (front).

Milne, Kym Mahoney, Ken Edwards, Greg Groppenbacher, Tim Fawcett, Ken Bate, Derek Whorlow and Regional Training Manager Jane

Shirriff provided information on boating safety and an insight into volunteering with MRNSW.

Sarah Adair

Smoke on the water from winter bushfire

Broken Bay steps up fundraising for new rescue vessel and base.

Crews from Broken Bay provided essential support to bushfire fighting operations when a blaze broke out at Longnose Point in the Ku-ring-gai National Park on August 19.

Broken Bay 30 maintained an exclusion zone to keep boaters a safe distance from the NSW Rural Fire Service and National Parks and Wildlife Service operation. The crews experienced poor air quality as gusting winds blew the smoke across Pittwater.

Members have spent winter concentrating on night operations training, building familiarity with electronic navigation and search and rescue techniques.

The unit has had an influx of new members, who also have gained insight into the challenges of working under darkness and the need to know our local waterways.

Congratulations to Tim Lewis and Dean Mills, who have attained their

Leading Crew ratings and Brad Atkin his Crew qualification.

A contingent of members took part in the Sydney Regional Search and Rescue Exercise in June. Poor offshore sea conditions saw units operating on Broken Bay complete their search and rescue simulation on sheltered waters.

The unit is working on two major projects that will have long-term benefits. The first is the replacement of our Steber, *Broken Bay 30* with a new Naiad vessel. Thank you to MR Central Coast Unit Commander Mark Sheehan for allowing our project team to inspect *Central Coast 30* to familiarise ourselves with the Naiad model.

The other major project is the replacement of our 50-year-old base, located in three demountable buildings in Bayview Park, originally used by council. Now, with the assistance of the additional State Government funding for MRNSW,



Smoke drifts towards *Broken Bay 30*, maintaining an exclusion zone on Pittwater to support bushfire fighting operations.

plans and discussions with the Northern Beaches Council are under way to potentially rebuild next year.

The growth in membership has bolstered not only our operational numbers but also provided significant help with fundraising.

With a clear need to increase our revenue to help cover the costs of our boat and building, we have planned some great fundraising events for the coming summer season and beyond.

Jimmy Arteaga

Crews watch over the speedy and stranded

Botany Port Hacking's focus on fundraising and community engagement.

Crews from MR Botany Port Hacking could tell their own version of the Aesop fable The Hare and the Tortoise after one winter Sunday on the water.

The action was fast paced as rescue vessel *Botany 30* kept a safety watch over the racing competitors in round four of the Speedboat Spectacular off the St George Motor Club on July 28.

In contrast, a disabled dive boat with six people on board needed to be rescued after it was stranded 1nm off the whale watching platform at Cape Solander the same day.

A week later, the unit's radio base was alerted to a small runabout requiring assistance offshore.

Port Hacking 30 was dispatched and the crew located the vessel at Osborn Shoal, in Bate Bay off North Cronulla Beach, towing it back to Port Hacking.

Off the water, unit members have focused on community engagement



Port Hacking 30 returns a runabout stranded offshore to safety on August 7. Photo: Brad Whittaker.

and fundraising during the cooler months.

Unit Commander Lewis Stockbridge and fundraising team members Bronwyn Daniels and Grahame Aulbury joined Prime Minister Scott Morrison at the

launch of the IMB Bank Cook Community Classic at Eloura Surf Life Saving Club. The Classic provides a fundraising platform for St George and Sutherland Shire community groups each year.

Members of the Lions Club of

Lugarno, a generous supporter of the unit, visited the base at Cronulla and unit volunteers joined their colleagues to promote boating safety and the work of MRNSW at the 2019 Sydney International Boat Show.

Terrey Hills members notch up a century

Frank recognised for 35 years' service to Australia and PNG.

Marine Rescue Terrey Hills has recognised a century of service by its volunteers – more than a third of which was contributed by one member.

Frank Haviland was presented the second clasp to the National Medal, recognising a personal contribution of 35 years to the community, at the unit's July meeting.

Frank's service includes 14 years with the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol and MRNSW, in addition to 21 years with the Department of Native Affairs (later the Department of Decentralisation) of the Papua New Guinea Government. These operated under the Commonwealth Department of Territories, which became the Department of External Affairs.

Frank joined as a Cadet Patrol Officer, eventually rising to the rank of District Officer. He held the statutory appointments of Magistrate for Native Matters, Local Court Magistrate, Reserve Magistrate and Justice of the Peace.

Today, Frank is the unit's Supply Officer, runs its radio club, works regularly on the Bunnings barbecue and is head chef for unit meetings.

Other members acknowledged at the meeting were Denis Comber (five years), Mel Little, Rick Squires, Malcolm Everitt and Roger Holt (10 years) and John Gabbott (20 years). Deputy Unit Commander Graham McNaney received his Watch Officer Certificate. A cake to mark the first decade of Marine Rescue NSW was generously donated by Leo Sawicki.



Greater Sydney Regional Operations Manager Glenn Evans congratulates MR Terrey Hills' Frank Haviland on 35 years' service.

The unit is running a watch officer training course in September, followed by a series of workshops for watch and duty officers aimed at ensuring operational procedures and requirements are clearly identified.

Sessions will include managing a watch; radio room operational review; integrating trainees in a watch and a case study exercise on managing an emergency.

Denis Comber

Poor radio signal hampers offshore search

Runabout returned to safety in five-hour Middle Harbour operation.

The importance of a fully functioning marine radio was highlighted during a marathon MR Middle Harbour operation to locate and rescue a fishing boat stranded 12nm east of Manly.

The crew of *Middle Harbour 30*, with skipper Lance Miller at the helm, was tasked with assisting the 5.8m half cabin cruiser experiencing starter motor problems at 9.45am on July 7.

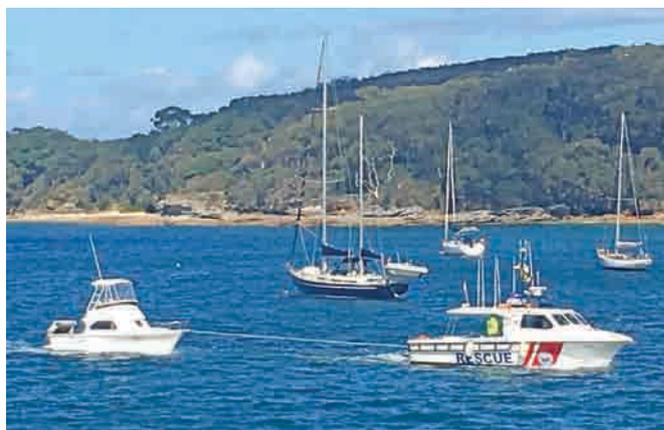
The crew headed towards an uncertain GPS position provided via mobile phone with poor reception and while the MR Terrey Hills base was able to establish that the boat could broadcast on VHF, its radio signal was too weak to be audible on *MH 30*.

Shortly after departing Sydney Heads, *MH 30* was forced to deviate off course to avoid a pod of whales and whale watching tour boats.

After some experimentation, the crew was able to detect the

boat's VHF transmissions on its Radio Direction Finder and was able to follow the signal from its communications with the radio base to finally locate the vessel.

With the weather quite mild, the two fishermen were in fine condition. *MH 30* took the boat under tow back to Roseville Ramp. Some five hours later, when it reached the entrance to Middle Harbour, the tow was transferred to *MH 20*, our 6.8m Naiad. *MH 30* returned to base but was immediately deployed to a vessel adrift without power off Middle Head. The weather was not so conducive for the unit's Bravo watch on August 17, when the crew was tasked to assist three boats in rather tricky conditions, with 40-50 knot winds coming straight in the heads. A 24 foot vessel from the Hawkesbury had engine trouble at 12.30pm and was towed to Davis Marina at Forty Baskets Beach in the chop.



Middle Harbour 30 returns a 24 foot vessel to the Hawkesbury in choppy conditions.

Twenty-two new members have recently joined the unit and will soon start their training program, covering induction, boat and radio licenses, first aid, fire fighting and sea survival. Once they complete this program in December, they will be allocated to a duty crew to work towards their crew qualification.

The unit also has hosted a leading

crew course for up to 20 members from Sydney units since May. Three members were presented with Long Service Medals at the unit's Annual General Meeting. Geoff Cooke was recognised for 25 years, Chris Allen for 15 and Unit Commander Peter Steigrad received his 10 Year Long Service Medal.

Brian Roberts

Boat show a great advertisement for service

Cottage Point members welcome eager visitors on board *Sailfish*.

The Sydney International Boat Show was a highlight of winter for MR Cottage Point, with the mighty *CP 30* taking centre stage among millions of dollars' worth of fabulous vessels on the marina.

The large and stable *Sailfish* drew hundreds of onlookers, young and old, novice and expert.

All were keen to learn more about MRNSW and its services or just to have a chat.

The Boat Show is a valuable advertisement for MRNSW, with *CP 30* raising the profile of our organisation and our volunteers introducing the range of services we undertake, increasing boating safety awareness and explaining the finer details of a rescue vessel.

A rotating crew of volunteers

was the face of the organisation at the show, doing an amazing job interacting with the boating public and inspiring both membership inquiries and welcome donations. Thanks to all those who helped out over the five days.

Transiting to and from Sydney Harbour provided aspiring leading crew members and coxswains with the chance to practice their skills in near coastal navigation.

The unit has new leadership, with former Unit Commander Paul Millar handing over to Tony Gordon and Neil Jones elected as Deputy Unit Commander.

Paul has been a great asset and devoted many hours to making MR Cottage Point a very successful and well oiled unit.



Welcome aboard ... MR Cottage Point members Chris Jones and Mike Evans greet visitors to *CP 30* at the International Boat Show.

Congratulations to Chris Gillett, who has been awarded the 30 year clasp to the National Medal in recognition of his long and diligent service to MRNSW and previously, the Australian Volunteer Coast

Guard Association. *CP 30* proudly bears Chris' name, in tribute to his instrumental role in shaping our unit and guiding many volunteers on their Marine Rescue journey.

Tony Gordon

Port Jackson augments its rescue capability

Volunteers build skills and welcome 20 new recruits to their ranks.

A new vessel and a significant refurbishment to its older sister have augmented MR Port Jackson's search and rescue capability.

The commissioning of *Port Jackson 20* (Paul Robinson) in February was followed by a major upgrade to *PJ 30* (Rob James), fitted with two new 200hp Suzuki outboards and Raymarine Axiom electronic display screens.

Both vessels have since taken part in a number of search and rescue exercises, including with our colleagues at MR Middle Harbour and the Sydney SAREX in June.

Our members have continued to develop their skills. Stefania Bonatti, Mark Callanan, Leon Gamaroff, and Tom Crvenkovic attained their crew rating and William Stainton, who

brings a great deal of experience from MR Queensland, has become Leading Crew. Unit Commander Greg Urand is our newest Coxswain.

Congratulations to Coxswain and former Unit Commander David Hand, one of the four MRNSW finalists in this year's Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards.

The unit's community engagement and fundraising over winter included a safety watch on Sydney Harbour during the Vivid festival, taking part in the Sydney International Boat Show and cooking up several feasts at Bunnings stores. Thanks to Richard Heberley for showcasing our professionalism and teamwork at the Bunnings events and Bojan Vizintin for securing a donation from the Northbridge-



Port Jackson 30 skipper, Deputy Commander John Boyle, practising a long tow with *PJ 20* off Sydney Heads.

Cammeray Masons.

Twenty new recruits are presently undergoing their induction and our Radio Club has also been re-energised, with the first new group

of public participants completing a marine radio course conducted by David Hand, Greg Searle, Alex Fenwick and Jarrod Ison.

Tom Crvenkovic

Crew trips light fantastic on Sydney Harbour

Safety watch for glow in the dark extravaganza excellent training and good fun.

On September 2, MR Port Jackson provided a safety watch for a futuristic fireworks display on Sydney Harbour that featured glow in the dark performers soaring up to 20m above the water.

Port Jackson 30 joined boats from the NSW Police Force Marine Area Command and NSW Maritime off Luna Park where hundreds of invited guests were gathered to celebrate the centenary of the establishment in Shanghai of the financial services firm, AIA Group.

"There were 1,700 people and they were part of an international convention," Jetpack Entertainment founder Ritchie Gregg said.

The event took months of planning and approvals from agencies including NSW Maritime and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority. CASA was involved because the fireworks, directed by Tino Foti, included four inch shells; and NSW Maritime had to grant an

exemption for the three jet skis that supported the aerial performers.

Personal Water Craft have been banned on Port Jackson since 2001.

Jet skis were as integral to the show as puppet strings are to puppeteers, with each flying performer wearing a jetpack connected to a jet ski by a 22m hose.

"The guy on the jet ski actually controls the throttle, so the more power he gives, the higher the revs, the more water it sucks up," Mr Gregg said.

He thanked the water safety experts for their assistance.

"We definitely could not have done it without the Marine Rescue volunteers, the Water Police, NSW Maritime and everybody else that was involved," he said.

PJ 30 skipper David Hand said the unit's mission was to safely escort the performers from a nearby wharf to the show site and help



Port Jackson 30 maintains an exclusion zone for a light show off Luna Park. Photo: Brendan Trembath.

maintain a boating exclusion zone.

The unit often assists with safety for high profile harbour events on the harbour such as the New Year's Eve fireworks and Australia Day.

"It's always a privilege for us to do," Mr Hand said. "It's also great to

expand our brand and get our brand out there. But it's also good fun."

Night time jobs also provided excellent training for newer members to become accustomed to operating after dark.

Brendan Trembath

Top deck view of coast for Hill 60 operators

Two units join search for rock fisherman missing from Port Kembla.

Marine Rescue Port Kembla members at the Hill 60 radio base have a new outlook on the world.

A sturdy new deck has been installed overlooking the Illawarra coastline as part of a major project to upgrade the base, which is set in a former World War II gun battery.

The work is being funded with a \$164,000 Port Kembla Community Investment Fund grant.

It also includes a new steel external staircase, repairs to the building, painting and improvements to the radio mast.

The Hill 60 deck had been a popular viewing platform for local residents and visitors but had been closed for some time because of safety concerns.

MRNSW Deputy Commissioner Dean Storey visited the base to inspect progress on the building works with new Unit Commander Kevin Bradley in August.

He said the upgrade had improved the working environment for the radio base's volunteers.

"The age of the building and constant exposure to the harsh

coastal conditions have caused it to deteriorate over the years but this work has improved the amenity and safety for our volunteer workforce and community visitors," he said.

"We're grateful to the State Government for the funding that has enabled this work to be undertaken."

Hill 60 was the centre of a major search for a missing rock fisherman in late August.

The 66-year-old had left Bankstown on the morning of Saturday, August 24, to go fishing at Port Kembla. When he did not return home, his family found his vehicle in the Hill 60 carpark near the rock platform on August 26.

Crews from MR Port Kembla and Shellharbour joined officers from the NSW Police Marine Area Command, Lake Illawarra Police District and PoAir in a major search of the coastline south to Shellharbour in rough seas.

Shellharbour 30 was tasked to search along Port Kembla Beach from Red Point to Windang Island and the shorelines of Big and Martin islands, with *Port Kembla 30* scouring the area from the Port



A new viewing platform and stairs have been installed as part of major building works at MR Port Kembla's Hill 60 radio base.

Kembla breakwater to Flagstaff Hill, as well as shoreline searches of Bass and Flinders Islands.

No trace was found of the missing man and police suspended the search on August 26.

Shellharbour tees up for second golf day

Friendly competition a fundraiser to help keep vessel rescue-ready.

After its inaugural golf day proved a hit last year, MR Shellharbour is calling for players to sign up for this year's event.

The 2019 golf day will be held on November 1 at the Links Shell Cove course.

Almost 50 players took part in last year's competition, including local business representatives, community leaders, unit supporters and members and a team from MRNSW Headquarters.

The four-person ambrose will be an enjoyable day for players of all standards and is open to all.

Deputy Unit Commander Peter May said while the annual event was primarily an opportunity for members to meet the unit's supporters in a friendly contest, it also had a serious aim.

"All money raised will go directly towards the cost of maintaining our rescue vessel, *Shellharbour 30*, at rescue-readiness," he said.

The cost is \$70 per person with cart, including a barbecue lunch cooked by the unit's chefs.

Congratulations to unit member Jake O'Callaghan, who has attained his Crew rating.



MR Shellharbour Deputy Commander Peter May congratulates Jake O'Callaghan on attaining his rescue vessel Crew rating.

Ulladulla responds to rash of false alarms

Boater's Log On mix-up sparks search for 'missing' vessel.

Crews from MR Ulladulla responded to a rash of false alarms over a winter characterised by gale winds and icy overnight conditions but warm seas.

Extensive searches and investigations in response to seven reports of flare sightings, boats in distress, objects in the water and a kayaker feared lost resulted in no outcomes and a boater who had Logged On incorrectly was located safely.

Ulladulla 30 also assisted boats with mechanical failures and a fire on board and joined the response to a vessel that had overturned on the Sussex Inlet bar, throwing people into the water, who were rescued by MR Sussex Inlet.

With 12 call outs and ongoing training, all three of the unit's vessels were highly visible on local waterways.

The series of false alarms began in June, when *UL 30* was involved in an extensive search in response to reported flare sightings.

Nothing was found but this was possibly a signalling light, with naval activity in the area at the time.

This was followed by a mistaken report of a boat on Burrill Rocks and a search mounted for a person in the water after an abandoned kayak was located off Bannisters Head.

No one was found and police



Crew member Keith Greenwood and skipper Barry Clapson on a training exercise on board *Ulladulla 30* during winter.

retrieved the kayak.

An increase in wind warnings in early July saw fewer boaters out.

UL 30 conducted an extensive search around Brush Island after reports of a sighting of a sunken vessel from a member of the public. MR Kioloa advised there were three buoys in the area, which may have been what the informant had seen in the rough seas. With no reports of vessels missing, *UL 30* was eventually stood down.

Reports of objects in the water, flare sightings and boats in distress also turned out to be false alerts in August.

After witnessing more boats leaving the harbour but fewer

Logging On, the unit is reminding boaters of the vital importance of Logging On in the event of an emergency.

An incident in July highlighted the importance of providing correct details when Logging On. *UL 30* was deployed when a boat that had Logged On via the *MarineRescue* app was flagged as overdue.

It was later found the boater had incorrectly Logged On using the details of a relative's boat but had then Logged Off by phone with MR Jervis Bay giving a different vessel name. The boater was located after the Ulladulla radio operators traced the trailer registration to the "missing" vessel.

Our education program over winter included heightened crew training with rescue mannequins and members braving the chill to complete their sea survival course in the local sea pool.

Our Long Range Operator's Certificate of Proficiency course was updated with all participants receiving high marks in the exams. The unit is also encouraging all members to undertake first aid training.

Congratulations to Clive Woodward on his Crew certification and Len Smart on achieving Leading Crew and John Gregory on passing his assessment as a Watch Officer.

Raine O'Keefe

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Shoalhaven theft fuels community anger

Resident finds unit's stolen trailer dumped in coastal bushland.

Five months after a brass propeller was stolen from a memorial to the late members of MR Shoalhaven, thieves struck again, stealing the unit's fuel trailer.

The \$18,000 trailer, filled with 400 litres of fuel, was taken from the Pilot House at Crookhaven Heads between 5pm on July 16 and 6am on July 18.

The unit's Facebook appeal for help in locating the trailer and information that could identify those responsible sparked community anger at the disregard for volunteers who gave their time to serve others and potential impact on emergency operations.

A Callala resident found the valuable asset dumped in bushland on July 30, with its doors jimmied open, damage from bushbashing and the fuel, battery and spare

wheel all missing.

The unit thanked the members of the community who generously donated to help keep rescue vessels *Shoalhaven 30* and *Shoalhaven 20* fueled and on the water.

Both vessels recently underwent routine maintenance works within a week of each other.

Unit member Danielle Carter was named the Officer of the Year for MRNSW in the inaugural Shoalhaven Emergency Services Community Awards announced on August 28.

Danielle and the other MRNSW finalists in the awards, her fellow Shoalhaven member Jacky Klausen and MR Jervis Bay volunteers Jurgen Kiaupa and Harold Plumb, joined other emergency services representatives for the awards ceremony at the Bomaderry Bowling Club.



Dumped and damaged ... MR Shoalhaven's fuel trailer was recovered from bushland a fortnight after it was stolen. Photo: Bill Smith.

Planning is now under way for the annual Marine Rescue Shoalhaven Emergency Services Open Day, to be held at the Greenwell Point Bowling Club on November 10.

This popular community event is a showcase of the skills, training and resources of the services protecting and assisting the

community. It will bring together representatives of MRNSW, the State Emergency Service, Fire + Rescue NSW, the Greenwell Point Rural Fire Service, NSW Maritime, Fisheries NSW, Australian Border Force, Culburra Surf Club, St John Ambulance, TS Shoalhaven Navy Cadets and HMAS Albatross.

Roll the tape: cameras boost response times

CCTV helps Kioloa operators check if boaters are safely back from sea.

An upgrade to the CCTV system at MR Kioloa has not only improved the security of the unit's radio base but also the safety of the area's boating population.

The system's camera is focused on the Kioloa boat ramp, providing radio operators with a high resolution video recording of departing and returning vessels.

The system will particularly prove its worth in cases of overdue vessels as the radio operators in the base will be able to quickly review the CCTV footage to determine whether a vessel is actually overdue or the boatie has simply forgotten to Log Off before heading home.

With vessel registrations able to be easily identified on the recorded footage, the ability to determine if a boat is still at sea will significantly enhance the unit's response times.

The Kioloa ramp is the only one

in the area, making keeping watch much simpler.

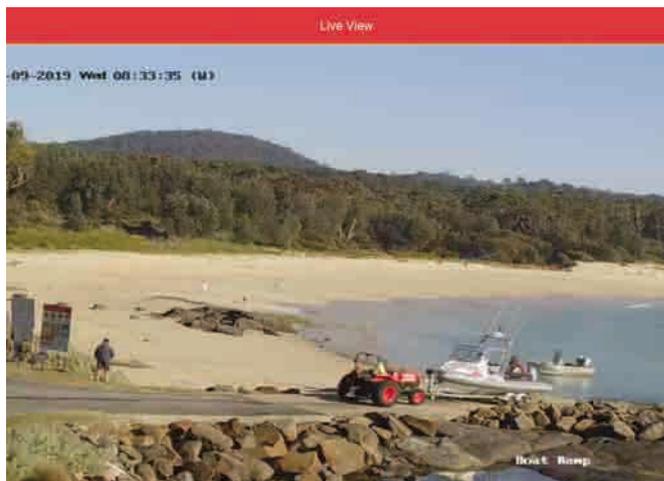
The live feed from the cameras also can be remotely accessed through a smartphone App, giving the unit the ability to monitor the safety of vessels even when personnel are not at the base.

The unit's beachfront location means that the unit's rescue vessel needs to be towed from the base by tractor to be launched from the open boat ramp directly into the ocean.

Kioloa 20, a 6.25m Cobia Enforcer, is suited to these ramp and beach operations.

While the Kioloa crew regularly train in these specialist launch and recovery operations, the vessel and location mean members are not exposed to the full range of seamanship skills demanded on larger vessels.

The generosity of our neighbours



A new CCTV system gives the MR Kioloa radio operators vision over vessels departing from and returning to the area's busy boat ramp.

from MR Ulladulla enables our members to frequently train with its crews on board its larger Steber, *Ulladulla 30* and *Ocean Cylinder*, *Ulladulla 20*.

This training provides our crew

members the chance to expand their skills and knowledge and importantly, ensures that they are employable on all vessels in the MRNSW fleet.

Peter White

Border force doubles presence on Murray

Smaller Ocean Cylinder an asset on shallow river tributaries.

Marine Rescue NSW has expanded its presence on the NSW-Victorian border with the delivery of a second rescue vessel to the Moama unit.

Moama 10, an \$111,000 4.6m Ocean Cylinder, was delivered to the unit in June.

It is the 91st vessel delivered under the landmark MRNSW Fleet Modernisation Program, at a cost of more than \$21 million over 10 years.

The new vessel is a highly manoeuvrable rescue asset on both the Murray River and its shallow, winding and narrow tributaries.

Deputy Unit Commander Roy Maiden said the unit's crew members were progressively undertaking their induction and training on *MO 10*.

He said it would boost the unit's ability to respond to incidents on the shallower waters that the Ocean Cylinder, *MO 20*, was too large to navigate.



Twin torque ... Ocean Cylinders *Moama 20* and the new *Moama 10* take to the Murray River (above) and ready for deployment outside the unit's riverside base (below).

He said many of these incidents involved jet skis running into trouble on the smaller tributaries.

"We're seeing a lot more incidents involving jet skis. People come up from Melbourne and they ask where all the water is.

"They could go offshore from Melbourne - there's a whole ocean out there - but they seem surprised by how shallow it is up here."



Volunteers praised at anniversary ceremony

Narooma unveils memorial garden and upgraded radio base technology.

Marine Rescue Narooma marked its 10th anniversary on August 11 with a ceremony to open its newly refurbished radio room and unveil a peaceful memorial garden overlooking the coastline.

Bega MP Andrew Constance and MRNSW Commissioner Stacey Tannos joined volunteers from the unit and more than 70 members of the community and representatives of local organisations at the event.

Mr Constance thanked the volunteers for their service.

Commissioner Tannos said MRNSW had helped more than 50,000 boaters return home safely over a decade.

The unit's radio base operations will be more efficient following the

installation of an additional radio operator console and Reditalk technology, which our members are looking forward to using.

Regional Operations Manager Glenn Sullivan said the new system would eliminate blackspots in VHF radio reception on the coastline.

The memorial garden is shaped in a semi-circle, representing an incomplete family. Flowers in the MRNSW colours of white, blue and yellow were planted with native plants to represent resilience. Each yellow grevillea was accompanied by a silver spoon engraved with the names of deceased members. The centrepiece is a hardwood seat made by the Narooma Men's Shed.

Unit administration officer Gillian



MR Narooma Unit Commander Paul Houseman, Commissioner Stacey Tannos and Bega MP Andrew Constance with Sally Davey, who received her five-year Long Service Medal.

Kearney thanked the Men's Shed members for their generosity and skill. She said the day was special and meaningful for the families of departed members who attended.

The unit's storage shed was also repaired as part of the refurbishment, including the installation of new roller doors.

Kerry McDonnell

Man charged over fake missing person claim

Agencies launch massive search for swimmer off Far South Coast.

A man has been charged after allegedly filing a false missing person report that sparked a mass search stretching over three days offshore from Tathra on the NSW Far South Coast in mid-August.

MRNSW was among emergency services called to Gillards Beach within Mimosa Rocks National Park north of Tathra about 5.30pm on Wednesday, August 14, after reports a swimmer had gone missing.

Coordinated by the NSW Police Force Marine Area Command, a search was swiftly mounted by local police, PoAir, MRNSW, Surf Life Saving, the Westpac Rescue Helicopter, Toll Helicopter and the State Emergency Service.

Crews from MR Bermagui and MR Merimbula took part in the offshore search.

Crews were about to take to the water for a fourth day on Saturday, August 17 when they were stood down.

Police reported that inquiries had

determined the report was false and there was no missing swimmer.

Following investigations, officers from the South Coast Police District issued a Future Court Attendance Notice to the 42-year-old man for the offence of false representation resulting in police investigation.

The Victorian man is due to appear at Bega Local Court in mid-October.

The joint search operation was reported to have potentially cost up to \$1 million.

MRNSW Monaro Regional Operations Manager Glenn Sullivan said while the situation was frustrating, the search had proven a valuable training exercise for emergency services in the lead-up to the summer boating season.

“Our vessel *Bermagui 30* was the On Scene Control vessel for two days and all the agencies worked seamlessly together throughout the operation,” he said.

“It was proof of our strong



Bermagui 30 and Eden Police Marine Area Command vessel *WP 25* on the water during the mass search operation off Tathra.

working relationships and the value of our regular joint training exercises to test and develop our coordination and collaboration.”

Mr Sullivan said *Bermagui 30* and *Merimbula 30* had been on the water for 21 hours each over two days - 12 hours on Thursday and nine on Friday - before the search

was called off, with each vessel costing about \$200 an hour to run.

“Eleven crew members were on the water each day and an additional radio operator was on duty in both units’ radio bases,” he said. “Additional members were also involved in logistical, refuelling and catering support.”

Trapman enters jaws of death for rescue unit

Bermagui invests almost \$3,000 in new safety and vessel equipment.

Two recent funding injections worth a total of \$2,775 have enabled MR Bermagui to upgrade its safety and vessel equipment.

The unit was delighted to receive a large donation of \$1,025 from well known local fisherman Jason Moyce, who is known as Trapman Bermagui.

Jason presented Unit Commander Caron Parfitt with the funding, the proceeds of the auction of a truly fearsome set of three shark jaws.

UC Parfitt said the donation would go toward much-needed items, including a replacement for the anchor windlass to raise and lower the anchor on rescue vessel *Bermagui 30*. The big and expensive job to install the new windlass was

carried out by Dave Gorrall from Bermagui Boat Repairs.

The unit also was one of 38 local community groups in the Bega Valley Shire to receive Club Grants totalling \$101,000.

The grants were donated by Club Sapphire Merimbula, Club Bega, the Merimbula RSL Club, Bermagui Country Club and Eden Fishermen’s Club.

The unit secured a grant worth \$1,750, contributed by Club Sapphire and the Merimbula RSL, to purchase six Personal Locator Beacons (PLB) for crew members on *BG 30*.

A PLB is a personal electronic transmitter used to alert the crew that a member has fallen overboard



Taxidermist Simon de Marchi, from Clean-A-Jaw, with Jason Moyce, who auctioned three shark jaws to raise funds for MR Bermagui.

and help rescuers to locate the individual in the water.

UC Parfitt expressed her gratitude

for the large donation and grant for the valuable items.

Olivia Ford & Denise Page

Tuross crews tackle swirl and chop on bar

River conditions a challenge for Rescue Water Craft training program.

A two-day Rescue Water Craft training and assessment program gave MR Tuross operators the chance to test their skills in the swirling, choppy waters at the mouth of the Tuross River in early August.

Regional Training Manager Stuart Massey, who has decades of experience as a rescue educator, guided the operators through the training to help prepare for the approaching peak summer season.

The crew enjoyed the challenge of undertaking an array of manoeuvres in the swirling waters at the mouth of the Tuross River and tackling 2-3 metre waves across the Tuross bar.

Five of the unit's RWC operators, Blaise Madden, Wayne Ellison, Viktor Svarcs, Alan Blessington and Paul Carter, joined their colleagues from a number of other units for an RWC training weekend at MRNSW Headquarters at Cronulla, which



MR Tuross Rescue Water Craft operators Blaise Madden and Wayne Ellis head offshore during a training exercise at the mouth of the Tuross River. Photo: Ilze Svarcs.

unfortunately was disrupted by high winds and unfavourable swells.

While at Headquarters, Paul

and Viktor, who are members of the Tuross unit executive, took the opportunity to undertake training

in the NetSuite accounting program with MRNSW Assistant Accountant Jenny Zuo.

Winter chill fails to deter big game fishers

Batemans Bay unit number one with a bullet for local radio audience.

The north westerlies and cooler temperatures kept a lot of Batemans Bay boaties at home over the past couple of months, with only the brave headed out to sea.

The winter chill was not enough to stop quite a few boats heading out to the shelf to try their hand at landing the big ones in the annual Blue Fin Tuna competition in July.

The unit did not receive any calls for help from competitors, some of whom were fishing right on the limit of our operational range.

The quieter months have allowed us to focus on work around the base such as renovations to the office, developing plans for a new shed and second exit point from the building and developing a scope of work to refit *Batemans 30*.

All the while it has been business as usual, with training, radio operations, fundraising and maintaining our readiness for emergency operations on the agenda.

The longer winter nights have also allowed us to restart our night training program, which has added a new dimension to our activities, along with new online training scenarios.

Batemans Bay members took part in a table top search and rescue exercise run by MR Narooma, which was an opportunity to hone our skills ahead of the major regional exercise to be held in Batemans Bay in November.

Local radio station 2EC recently ran a competition for listeners to vote for their favourite community



ELGAS Batemans Bay Branch Manager Nathan Eke presents MR Batemans Bay members Sandra Simmonds, UC Richard Blundell and DUC Mick Syrek with a cheque for \$1,000.

organisation. One of our members, Sandra Simmonds, nominated MR Batemans Bay and then canvassed her friends, family and other members to vote for us.

Her good work paid off and the

unit received a cheque for \$1,000 from the competition sponsor, ELGAS.

Thanks to Sandra and to ELGAS for its generosity.

Richard Blundell

Second vessel enhances Merimbula capacity

Record-breaking raffle raises valuable funds for boat and infrastructure.

Marine Rescue Merimbula is set to expand its fleet, adding a second rescue vessel to expand our capability and provide a flexible new resource for shallow inshore operations.

A record result in the unit's six-month raffle raised a total of \$15,000 towards the new vessel, an AirBerth and a new, larger wharf on which our two rescue vessels can be accommodated.

Bega Valley Shire Council recently approved a development application for the new pontoon, which will replace the 25-year-old wharf, which has rotted through in places.

Despite maintenance to reinforce the piles, these will fail in the future.

The new vessel, a 6.8m Naiad RHIB, will complement our Naiad, *Merimbula 30*, and extend the unit's operating capacity inshore and west of the Merimbula Bridge to the airport.

MB 30 is too large to fit under the bridge to reach the area's boat ramp, meaning disabled vessels can only be towed back to the town

wharf on the east side of the bridge, with skippers needing to find their own way back to the ramp.

Construction of the new boat is expected to start this year. Thanks to our Grants Officer Stewart Dietrich, Administration Officer Bernie Ryan and Unit Commander Bill Blakeman for their research and tenacity in this project.

The unit's fundraising for the new boat and infrastructure would not have been so successful without the generosity of local residents and holidaymakers.

The attractive first prize, an open runabout, trailer, outboard motor and safety equipment valued at \$9,500, went a long way to helping sell the tickets and we were fortunate to be supported again by the Merimbula RSL Club, which displayed the vessel in its foyer and sold a large number of tickets on our behalf.

The \$11,680 prize pool, made possible thanks to the support of local businesses, also included whale watching cruises, oyster tours and a hamper of vouchers and gifts



MR Merimbula Commander Bill Blakeman presents Dan Cowlshaw with his new boat, accompanied by members Greg Madden, John Coombes, Diana and Derek Clements and DUC Sonia Teston.

from local businesses but the prize that piqued most interest was a voucher for accommodation at the Green Cape Light Station keeper's cottage.

The lucky winner of the first prize was Dan Cowlshaw, a keen fisherman who moved to Merimbula the same week he collected his new boat.

Dan has since been spotted out on the water on board his prize. The other winners were a mix of locals and interstate visitors.

The excellent results would not have been achieved without raffle coordinator Jeff Lawes' dedication and effort and all our members who volunteered their time to sell tickets.

Sonia Teston

Drought continues to take toll on lakes

Lake Eucumbene storage levels at just 25 per cent.

The drought continues to take its toll on the Alpine Lakes.

Snowy Hydro reports that on September 5, the storage level in Lake Eucumbene was just 25.48 per cent, with Lake Jindabyne at 67 per cent. These levels represent a slight improvement compared to the same time last year, when Eucumbene was at 18.54 per cent and Jindabyne at 63 per cent.

MR Alpine Lakes Unit Commander Les Threlfo said the water levels on Lake Eucumbene were about 50 feet below usual.

"Jindabyne will be filled in the next month or so because the snow comes off the mountain straight into

it," he said. "But only flat bottomed boats can put in anywhere on Eucumbene.

"They made the boat ramp about 50 metres longer but it's still another 50 metres until you get to the water. There's plenty of fish and people still fishing."

UC Threlfo said the unit's rescue vessels were too heavy to cross the flats to the water on Lake Eucumbene at present but alternative arrangements had been put in place, with the local fishing club helping retrieve boats that got stuck and smaller rescue vessels able to be deployed from the coastline.



Deputy Premier John Barilaro opens the road to the Lake Jindabyne boat ramp and car park, to which Snowy Hydro committed \$250,000.

Access to Lake Jindabyne has been improved with a sealed road and car park now completed.

Snowy Hydro contributed \$250,000 to the project, which is benefiting thousands of lake users.

What we've been up to



Blue on blue ... Bega MP Andrew Constance and Commissioner Stacey Tannos join volunteers and community members on a brilliant winter's day to mark MR Narooma's 10th anniversary and unveil the unit's memorial garden overlooking the southern coastline and a major upgrade to its radio base equipment.



Fall in ... Greater Sydney Regional Operations Manager Glenn Evans in the flag party leading the finalists into the Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards in Sydney.



Celebrating a decade ... MRNSW State Training Manager Brad Whittaker presents an anniversary plaque to Prime Minister Scott Morrison, who was meeting community groups. *Photo: John Veage.*



Recognition ... MR Shoalhaven's Dr Peter Taylor congratulates unit colleague Danielle Carter, the MRNSW Officer of the Year in the inaugural Shoalhaven Emergency Services Community Awards.



Handing over ... after stepping down as MR Cottage Point Deputy Unit Commander, Tim Pike affixes the DUC epaulettes to the uniform of his successor Neil Jones.

Safety alert on dangerous kapok lifejackets

Boaters urged to destroy and replace outdated equipment.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority has issued a safety alert to raise awareness of the risks associated with the use of out of date, and dangerous, kapok filled lifejackets.

Kapok filled lifejackets with cotton straps are decades old and have not been manufactured since the 1980s, however, an unknown number are still being used.

Kapok is a cotton-like fluff that is no longer used in lifejacket manufacture because it naturally loses buoyancy over time and, if it gets wet, will absorb water.

Furthermore, the cotton straps rot over time, even if the lifejacket is not used, and will tear or break off the lifejacket when weight comes on it.

While these lifejackets may have complied with the applicable standard when they were

manufactured and may have the old standards logos on them, they no longer comply with the modern Australian Standard for lifejackets and are not fit for use on any Domestic Commercial Vessel.

If one of these lifejackets has successfully been used in the past, it should still be replaced as soon as possible and destroyed, as it will have deteriorated and might not float now.

Even if these lifejackets are in their original packaging, have never been used and look in perfect condition, replace them and destroy them.

A reminder:

If your vessel has any kapok filled lifejackets, remove them from the vessel, destroy them and replace them with new lifejackets that meet the current standard.



Subject to an Australian Maritime Safety Authority warning ... a kapok filled lifejacket.

If you are not sure if your lifejackets are filled with kapok, ask your AMSA Accredited Marine Surveyor for assistance.

Rules on lifejacket use on NSW

waterways and advice on suitable models can be found at:

<https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/maritime/safety-rules/safety-equipment/lifejackets.html>

If you're not a member of the **Boat Owners Association,** you should be!



Don't lose your mooring

We are participating in the RMS moorings review.

Keep Little Manly Cove Open

We successfully lobbied to give boaters continued access.

Keep the channels to our waterways open

We are working with the RMS & Lands Department to ensure that dredging is kept up to date.

Batemans Bay new bridge

We are working with RMS to ensure boat owners will have safe access to town and mooring facilities.

Nowra Bridge

A new bridge is proposed, we are working with the relevant Government departments to ensure boating NSW is well looked after.

We do cover all of NSW

Complacency and apathy are our own worst enemies. Maintain your boating rights.

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From yard to water

A new State Government scheme enables boaters buying brand new vessels to obtain NSW vessel registration at the point of sale.

The Maritime Dealer Vessel Registration Scheme allows participating dealers across the country to access and obtain NSW registration numbers for the new

vessels they sell. The customer does not need to attend a registry or service centre to complete the registration. New boats purchased through authorised dealers can then be taken straight out on NSW waters, much like when you drive a new car off the lot on to the roads.

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Alpine services lose a member of the family

Karin will be fondly remembered for taking care of people.

The high country emergency services family has lost a long-time member with the passing in August of Marine Rescue Alpine Lakes Deputy Unit Commander Karin Davies.

Karin had served as a State Emergency Service volunteer for years before she, her husband Tony and son Michael joined the first inland MRNSW unit.

Unit Commander Les Threlfo knew Karin for about 20 years, with the pair first serving together when he was the SES Monaro Region Local Controller and she was the Administration Officer.

The pair formed a strong partnership.

"I was working to build this place up and after about a year I rang her and said 'why aren't you coming

over, what's happening?'" and she said 'well you never asked us'.

"And I probably didn't, I just presumed she would come," he said.

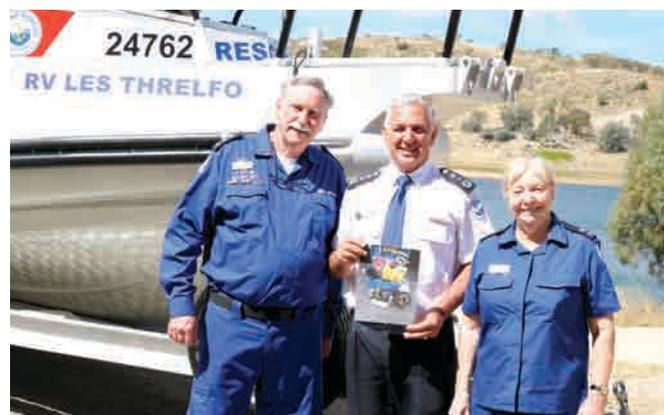
After joining the Alpine Lakes unit in 2012, Karin proved a powerhouse in administration and fundraising.

"She raised about \$12,000 a year selling tickets," Les said.

"That's a lot in a small place like this. There might be 50-odd things happening in a week all over the place in Cooma, Nimitabell and Jindabyne and she and Tony would go to all of them.

"They might make \$150 a day but by the end of the year, it all added up to \$12,000.

"Did we need her? For sure we did, desperately. We never would have had the money to buy the



MR Deputy Unit Commander Karin Davies with UC Les Threlfo and Commissioner Stacey Tannos at the commissioning of AL 21.

things we did without her."

Les said Karin's fellow volunteers would remember her with great fondness.

"She really looked after everyone. If there was a meeting, she'd bring

a cake, she'd make sandwiches. It was those little things that people appreciated."

After enduring cancer for some years, Karin died suddenly in a swift relapse.



Value for you. Support for us.



Visit the Marine Rescue NSW e-shop to show your support for our volunteers' work to save lives on the water.

MRNSW provides a vital safety net for our boating community but we need your help. When you shop with us, you'll not only get great value but you'll know you're also helping maintain our world-class emergency service.

You'll find a range of MRNSW merchandise - coffee mugs, water bottles, floating key rings, USB sticks and supporter caps and slouch hats - so you can join our life-saving mission.

You can shop for safety equipment and some useful boating and fishing gear, too. Discounts apply for MRNSW volunteers and Radio Club members. Show your support today!

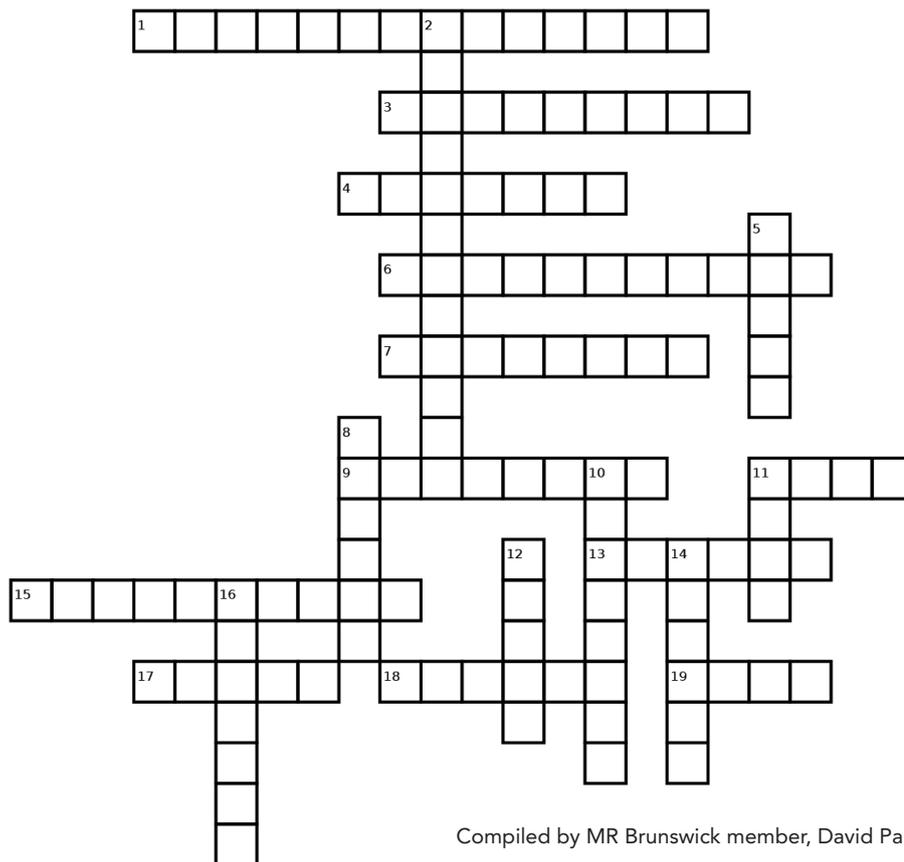
Shop at the MRNSW e-shop
shopmrnsw.com.au

DOWN

- 2. Which unit's members have a cameo role in the Palm Beach movie? (12)
- 5. What does the B stand for in POB? (5)
- 8. Used to get attention in an emergency. (6)
- 10. The D in DCN radio stands for? (8)
- 11. If a blue vessel and a red vessel approach head-on, which should turn to starboard? (4)
- 12. If the bar entrance is flat with no waves, what caution would you suggest? (5)
- 14. What unit of length is equal to 1.8 metres? (6)
- 16. If you are downwind, you are what? (7)

ACROSS

- 1. In which town, featuring a prominent MRNSW radio base, is the new Seachange TV series filmed? (14)
- 3. Where should you drive a vessel when in a channel? (9)
- 4. The direction in which a place or object lies. (7)
- 6. Important information to get from a skipper Logging On. (11)
- 7. What island may be home to the 45th MRNSW unit? (8)
- 9. When giving a position, which comes first: latitude or longitude? (8)
- 11. Anchored floating mark. (4)
- 13. The S in AMSA stands for? (6)
- 15. EPIRB signals go to? (10)
- 17. Highest part of a wave? (5)
- 18. Milestone achieved by MRNSW this year (6)
- 19. You steer the boat from this (4)



Compiled by MR Brunswick member, David Parkinson.

- IT'S ALL IN THE CLUES**
- Down:** 2. Cottage Point, 5. Board, 8. Flares, 10. Discrete, 11. Both, 12. Usual, 14. Fathom, 16. Leeward.
 - Across:** 1. Brunswick Heads, 3. Starboard, 4. Bearing, 6. Destination, 7. Lordhowe, 9. Latitude, 11. Buoy, 13. Safety, 15. Satellites, 17. Crest, 18. Decade, 19. Helm.

Rotary winner challenging choice

On behalf of the Rotary Districts and Clubs of NSW, the Steering Committee comprising representatives from the Rotary Districts in NSW and each of the six Emergency Services Agencies, sincerely thanks you for your support for this year's NSW Emergency Services Community Awards Ceremony.

It was most gratifying that over 300 guests from all over the State joined our Minister, our Commissioners and yourself to celebrate and recognise the amazing examples of 'Service Above Self' of the 24 finalists at the Bankstown Sports Club. Feedback has acclaimed this year as another prestigious and successful event.

Nominations were outstanding, presenting our 2019 Rotary judging panels with a very challenging task. Of the 24 finalists, 14 are located 100km outside Sydney.

With the support of all our Partners/Sponsors, we are proud that Tara Lal of Fire + Rescue NSW,



Vocational Training Team members from Vanuatu attended the Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards dinner.

as the first Scholar our Australian Rotary Health PhD Research Scholarship for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder for Emergency Services Personnel, was able to be introduced and make a presentation.

We were also excited to have inbound Vocational Training Team members from Vanuatu to join our outbound team at the Awards dinner.

We saw the second year of the Dorothy Hennessy OAM NSW Emergency Services Youth

Scholarship. This year's recipient is Jessica Pengilly, a Trainee Operator with the Dubbo Rescue Squad of the NSW Volunteer Rescue Association.

We are excited to announce the 2020 Awards Dinner will be held on Saturday, August 1.

We will be welcoming Surf Life Saving NSW, becoming the seventh agency we will be recognising moving forward.

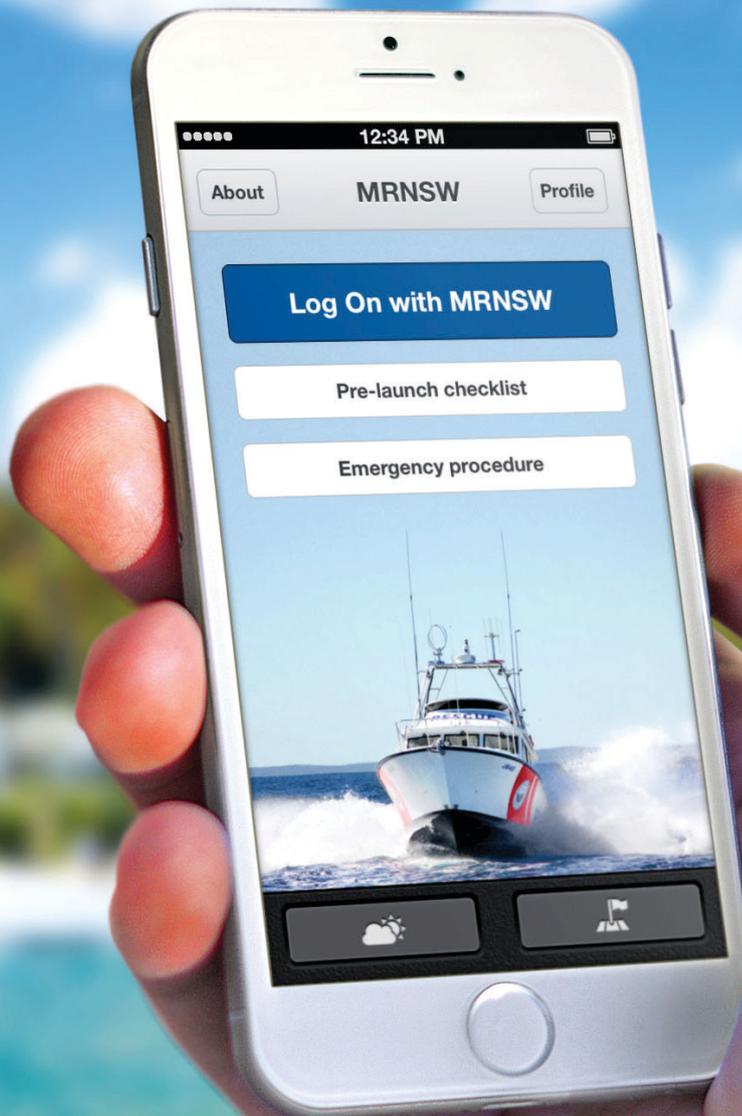
*Dorothy Hennessy OAM
Chair (RESCA)*

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