

# PORT CHATTER

WINTER 2023  
JUNE

## MARINE RESCUE NSW PORT STEPHENS UNIT

*‘Volunteers Saving Lives on the Water’*



“A Saturday morning sunrise”  
Photo supplied by Graeme Abberton Watch Officer.



## MARINE RESCUE NSW – PORT STEPHENS UNIT

Postal Address: PO Box 20, Nelson Bay, NSW 2315

Location: Nelson Head, Nelson Bay, NSW

Email: base.portstephens@marinerescuensw.com.au

Phone: (02) 4981 3585

## VOLUNTEERS SAVING LIVES ON THE WATER

### UNIT APPOINTMENTS - JUNE 2023

<b>Patrons:</b> Kate Washington MP, State Member Port Stephens Meryl Swanson MP, Federal Member Paterson The Hon. Dr David Gillespie MP, Federal Member Lyne		<b>Corporate Services</b> <b>Administration Officer:</b> Sue Freeman Assistant Admin. Officer: Deb Venables Clerical Assistance: Erica Smith WH&S Officer: Vacant Honours/Awards: Krystyna Winslow Providore: Bloss Cleary Data / Stats: Maureen Wheatley Supply: Margaret & Andrew Morrison Membership: Officer Vacant Membership support: Erica Smith	
<b>Unit Commander:</b> Ben van der Wijngaart  <b>Welfare / Liaison:</b> Ross Debenham <b>Assistant Welfare / Liaison:</b> Helen Peterson <b>Protocol Officer:</b> Harold Gibson		<b>Fundraising Officer</b> Peter Young Deputy FRO Ray McLeod Food Service Coordinator Vacant Wedding Co-ordinator Bloss Cleary Donation Boats Angela Tilling Gift Shop Manager Sandra Scheuber Gift Shop Bookkeeper Denise Olson Grants Officer: John Reid	
<b>Deputy Unit Commander::</b> Colin Couper Emergency Services Liaison Officer: Colin Couper IT Officer/Network/Comms Lee Ryman Deputy ITO Vacant Data Management/: Brian Richardson		<b>Community Relations</b> <b>Community Relations Officer:</b> Frank Van Druten Public Relations/Social Media: Stephen Barrett Port Chatter / Wavelength Editor Peter Merlino Assistant Editor: Geoff Williams Social Media (Facebook): Jeff Dallinger Assistant Murray O'Dea Social Committee: Vacant Webmaster: Rob Guyder Assistant Webmaster: Mick O'Rourke	
<b>Operations</b> <b>Operations Officer:</b> Michael Duggan Assistant Operations Officer: Anthony Batchler Communications Centre Manager: Nigel Eves Deputy Comms Manager: Dee Gilliland Rosters Officer John Lee Deputy Roster Officer: Chris Beadle On Call Watch Officers: Stephen Harris, Frank Van Druten, Peter Young, Laurie Nolan, Graham Abberton, Neil Fraser, Colin Couper, Ben van der Wijngaart  Duty Callout Officers: Neil Fraser, Peter Dentrinos, Frank van Druten, Julian Lyddy-Meaney, Graeme Abberton		<b>Finance</b> <b>Treasurer:</b> Adrian Hill Deputy Treasurer Vacant	
Radio Club Manager: Elizabeth Francis, John Reid Boats Manager: Mark Kelly Assistant Manager: Tony Baker Ashes Scattering Coordinator: Harold Gibson Chief Engineer: Bill Haskell Coxswains: Sue Freeman, Robert Johnson, Laurie Nolan, Brian Bibbing, Mick Duggan, Iain Blackadder, Anthony Batchler		<b>Facilities</b> <b>Facilities Officer:</b> Grant Leddie Deputy FACO Jim Ottaway Property Officer: Jim Ottaway Maintenance: Steve Chauncy, Harold Gibson, John Woodbridge, Alan Woodward  Security: John Smith Cottage Manager: Erica Smith Curator: Bronwen McLeod Cottage Rosters: Alan Woodward Tours: Harold Gibson Tea Rooms Liaison: Grant Leddie	
<b>Unit Training</b> <b>Unit Training Officer:</b> Peter Dentrinos Assistant Training Officer: Vacant Training Systems Officer: Jennifer Dunn Rescue Vessels Training Officer: Howard Faulks Assistant RV Training Officer: Paul Radford Course Presenters: Ray McLeod, Trevor Moxham, Ben van der Wijngaart, Riko Eguchi, Brad Polak  First Aid Presenters: Peter Dentrinos, Lisa Lodding			

## OUR PRIMARY FOCUS

*Volunteers Saving Lives on the Water*

### MARINE RESCUE NSW – PORT STEPHENS UNIT SERVICES PROVIDED



**Category One Marine Search and Rescue Co-ordination Centre (SARCC).** Located at the former Inner Light and now Heritage Site at Nelson Head, 32°42.632 S; 152°09.667 E (overlooking Shoal Bay and looking out through the entrance to Port Stephens). Accredited by the State Rescue Board.

**Communications Centre, Nelson Head - VMR217.** Operated by trained and qualified volunteers, 24 hours a day; 7 days a week; 365 days a year. Monitoring 27MHz, and VHF marine frequencies, emergency and calling channels.

Apart from radio coverage generally to the local boating community, the Communications Centre offers:

- Emergency support to vessels in trouble
- A Marine Radio Safety (MRS) service – Boat Register
- A checkpoint and radio coverage for recreational vessels transiting up and down the coastline adjacent to Port Stephens.
- Weather readings and local conditions observations and
- Current Bureau of Meteorology weather forecasts and tidal information. (These can be obtained by contacting the Comms Centre by phone or radio and are also offered in regular radio skeds).

**Accredited Rescue Vessels :** Available on a 24 hr. call-out basis, subject to Police tasking. (See 'Rescue Vessels' page).

**Weather recording facility :** Accredited by the Bureau of Meteorology. Regular reports on local conditions are electronically communicated to the Bureau, as well as to Radio, TV and Print media outlets in the local area.

**Gift Shop :** Marine Rescue Port Stephens operates a unique gift shop on the ground floor of the Marine Rescue Communications Centre at Nelson Head Reserve, Nelson Bay. The shop offers gifts with a nautical flavour and a range to suit every budget. Without income from the Gift Shop, the Unit would find it very difficult, if not near impossible, to operate. Open to the public, 7 days a week from 9am to 3pm.

**Nelson Head Reserve:** Marine Rescue Port Stephens Unit of which Marine Rescue NSW is the responsible entity to the State Government for upkeep of this Crown Land heritage precinct "Reserve".

A small museum is operated by volunteers and is open to the public, 7 days a week from 9am to 3pm.

A portion of the Historic Lighthouse Keepers Cottage is leased to a private operator "Inner Light Tea Rooms" for breakfast, lunch, morning and afternoon teas/coffee, from 8.30am to 3.00pm.

**Wedding Ceremonies:** Bookings can be made to hold weddings on the reserve (see Lighthouse Weddings page).



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## UNIT COMMANDER'S REPORT

### UNIT COMMANDER



#### Thoughts from Volunteers Week

Volunteers Week has just concluded and it brought me timely thought about how we need to increase our member base by around 25% in the next few years to cope with the ever increasing need to raise funds

to support our operating costs – which like everything else are rising dramatically each year.

We are currently planning our FY2023-24 budget but I know from our Strategic Planning exercise over the last months that we will need in the vicinity of \$190,000 annually in years to come to keep operating – quite aside from the capital funds required to develop the new Command Centre.

The State Government currently only covers around \$30,000 of that. There is no doubt that with the volunteer efforts including fundraising within emergency Services such as ours and our sister services - the RFS and SES – the State Government gets a pretty good deal. Copy/paste for the other States and Territories.



Mary Gutrie, one of our Gift Shop stalwarts of 22 years' service, showed me a poem about volunteers last week that I will transcribe here, because I believe it says a lot that needs to be said.

#### Being a Volunteer'

*It's not for the money, it's not for the fame,  
It's not for any personal gain,  
It's just for love of fellow man,  
It's just to lend a helping hand.*

*It's just to give a tithe of self,  
That's something you can't buy with wealth,  
It's not for medals worn with pride,  
It's for that feeling deep inside.*

*It's that reward down in your heart,  
It's that feeling that you've been part  
of helping others far and near,  
what makes you be a volunteer."*

If that moves you to think about joining our friendly crew of volunteers, check out this link <https://marinerescueportstephens.au/join-marine-rescue/> or give us a call on 4981 3585. We're particularly looking for people to work in:

- Fundraising (we're about to get a new food trailer – exciting times)
- In the Cottage Museum as guides,
- grounds maintenance and
- the Gift Shop.



Aspirants willing to be training as radio operators and boat crew are of course always welcome.

#### Whale Season - Marine Rescue NSW urges boaters to be careful during whale migration season

Boaters on the Sydney and Hunter Coasts are being advised to not to get too close to whales as they make their annual trip north to warmer waters.

Multiple pods of humpbacks have been spotted off the coast from the Royal National Park to Seal Rocks in recent days.

Marine Rescue NSW Commissioner Alex Barrell has sent out the following message: He said boaters need to be aware of the marine mammals.

"As we are starting to see the whale migration along the NSW Coast, Marine Rescue is reminding boaters that



(Continued on page 7)

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## UNIT COMMANDER CONT'D

*(Continued from page 5)*

there are rules and restrictions in place for the wellbeing of the animal but also the safety of boaters.

"Boaters are not to come within 100 metres of a whale or 300 metres of a whale and a calf.

"If a whale does surface near your vessel it is important that you cut your motors and slow down to a safe speed," he said.

Commissioner Barrell is also reminding skippers not to approach whales from behind or to wait in front of their path.

The Marine Rescue NSW Commissioner said no more than three vessels at a time should approach whales and skippers should wait their turn.

"There will be plenty of time to enjoy these magnificent creatures during the migration season.

Commissioner Barrell said. "As always if you are heading out on the water to view the whales please make sure that you Log On and Log Off with your local Marine Rescue base either via the Marine Rescue app or over VHF marine radio Channel 16,"

**Ben van der Wijngaart**  
**Unit Commander**

## LEST WE FORGET

### ANZAC 2023



Our members marching in ANZAC parade at Nelson Bay led by Deputy Unit Commander Colin Couper and flag bearer Trevor Moxham

Unit Commander Ben van der Wijngaart laying the wreath at ANZAC memorial Nelson Bay on behalf of all Marine Rescue NSW Port Stephens unit members.





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## DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER

### MRPS and Port Stephens FM 100.9

Each morning at around twenty to seven, a Presenter at the Port Stephens FM 100.9 community radio station phones in to our Communications Centre for a live cross to relay the latest marine weather report. Actually it is more than just a bland statement of the current and forecast weather conditions. It is an opportunity for these two volunteer organisations to provide a service to the Port Stephens boating community with information that may enhance their day on the water or warn them of problems ahead, even though it is on different types of radio communications.

For three or four minutes MRPS members get to be **'Radio Stars'**. *[Though in a portent of the future, there is the famous tune 'Video Killed The Radio Stars' by the Buggles <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8r-tXRLazs> Of course this does not apply to our great local radio station.]*

The repartee that ensues while relaying the rather dry meteorological data to the skippers out there is also something that those on duty look forward to. Sometimes it is too busy in the Comms Centre, especially in the peak summer season, for time to be found to "Go Live". However, the latest weather information is always available on the MRPS Website at <https://marinerescueportstephens.au/local-weather-information/> : plus the local marine conditions are announced to listeners by the PSFM Presenter team throughout the day using this website.

For those at the MRPS end of this conversation, we have a preconceived idea what our friends on the other end of the line may look like. No doubt they may also have a picture of our volunteers. While it is not possible to show every member of the MRPS morning shift here because of our dynamic roster, the early Presenters at PSFM have kindly agreed to reveal themselves. As with MRPS, there are often crosses with other stand-in PSFM personnel as both groups of volunteers show there is a life outside, away from this other 'day job'.

The latest weather information is always available by phoning the Base on 4981 3585 or by calling 'Marine Rescue Port Stephens' on VHF Channel 16 or on 27MHz channel 88 of your marine radio.

Thank you PSFM Presenters for allowing the readers of Port Chatter to put a face to your wonderful radio voices.

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>6am – 9am</b>	Breakfast with Haddy
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>6am – 9am</b>	Breakfast with Helen
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>6am – 9am</b>	Breakfast with Spence
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>6am – 9am</b>	Breakfast Jen
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>6am – 9am</b>	Breakfast with Stu
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>6am – 9am</b>	Liz's Brekkie All sorts
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>6am – 9am</b>	Easy Sunday with Felix



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David Smith  
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Haddy



Helen



Spence



Jen



Stu



Liz



Felix





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## DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER CONT'D

### ROTARY SALAMANDER BAY AWARDS

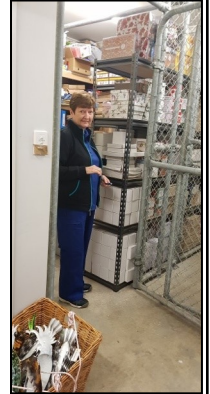
The Rotary Club of Salamander Bay held their Community Awards dinner night at the Nelson Bay Golf Club on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

Among the twelve recipients recognised by this prestigious community organisation were Marine Rescue Port Stephens volunteers Sandra Scheuber and Shirley Clark who received Pride in Workmanship Awards.



Sandra has been the Gift Shop Manager for the last seven years and has led this dedicated team in supplying over 65% of the funds needed to meet the Unit's six figure operations budget. The shop is open seven days a week and carries a range of products of interest to the visitors to Nelson Head.

Sandra puts in over 25 hours each week, not only helping out in the shop but she also does the ordering of stock, often from home. She then controls delivery, unpacking and pricing with her team of assistants. Sandra also

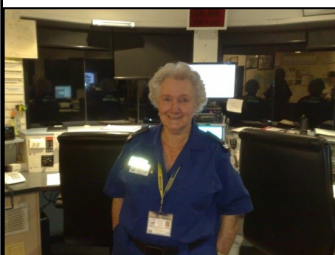


travels to Sydney trade fairs at her own expense surveying possible items to offer the customers.

Each month she chairs the Gift Shop volunteers' meeting to ensure all Members are aware of Unit events and the other details that ensure the efficient running of the enterprise. In recognition of her work ethic, in 2022 Sandra was elected a Unit Life Member. A very busy volunteer.



Shirley Clark needs no introduction to any Member who has been in the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol or in what is now Marine Rescue Port Stephens. After the Coastal Patrol was formed in 1982, the wives of those early radio and boat crew operators realized that fund raising was the next most important consideration. Shirley was the leader of this Ladies Auxiliary which ran raffles, baked scones for sale at the local market and even hosted a Carols By Candlelight night at the Base.



She worked in the radio room for 20 years attaining the rating of Watch Officer and then moved into the Gift

Shop. Shirley was made a Life Member of the RVCP in 2004 which was recognised as a Life

Member of MRNSW when it was formed in 2010 but what Shirley epitomises is the spirit of our Unit. From the foundation of its existence to the pride of contributing to its running today, Shirley has always given of her time, energy and her wonderful attitude to ensure we may contribute to our community. She is just 92 years young, something that was recognised by those on the night with a rousing round of applause. When it was mentioned that our new rescue vessel PS 30 was to be named the Shirley Clark, the applause was even louder.

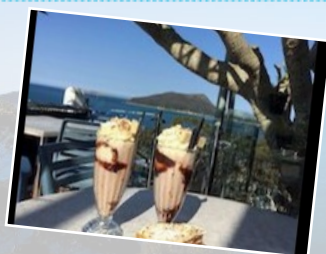


Congratulations to you both on what you have done in contributing to our success.

**Colin Couper**  
Deputy Unit Commander



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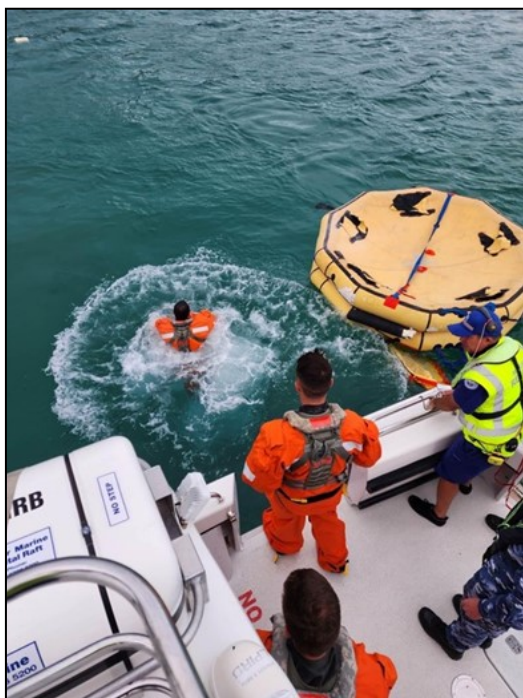
## OPERATIONS

As the Bay begins to feel the bite of the colder weather that autumn brings we tend to see fewer boaters on the water than during our peak summer period. Fewer boats on the water generally translates to fewer logons with Marine Rescue Port Stephens and fewer marine incidents for the unit to manage. Something which has not been fewer is the coverage that our volunteers have been able to provide to the boating community by maintaining a 24/7 listening watch on the radio or waiting for 'that phone call' asking for help.

Our rescue vessel responses to those in need during the recent months have again occurred at all hours of the day and night and at times in miserable weather conditions – something our volunteers accomplish with aplomb. A challenging rescue completed successfully, always raises the camaraderie of our motely crew of professional volunteers who would welcome someone like you to join our team with open arms – come and have a look!



Damp Eagle is the name of an exercise which is becoming a regular RAAF 2SQN event involving Marine Rescue Port Stephens. The aim of the exercise is to familiarise the wedgetail aircrew with their personal protective equipment in a marine environment.



This involves both of our rescue vessels and the Search and Rescue helicopter from the RAAF base as the aircrew practice life raft entry, wet winching, radio functionalities and also other survival aids from the top of Mt Tomaree. The latest iteration occurred on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> of April and was quite successful.

Nobody wants to hear a knocking sound coming from anywhere remotely close to an engine, unfortunately this is exactly what our crew onboard our larger vessel, Port Stephens 31 (PS31) heard one morning. This was a great pick up from an observant crew as the investigation identified an issue with the fire pump pulley system and harmonic balancer. This issue and subsequent fix rendered the rescue vessel inoperative for approximately two weeks.

The flexibility and resilience our unit gains by having two vessels was again highlighted with the rescue on Saturday 22 April at the Big Gibber, some 19 Nm NE of the port entrance, when our smaller vessel, Port Stephens 30 (PS30) was able to conduct the assist while PS31 was being fixed. This assist was one of many by 'the little boat that can'.



Although capable, PS30's replacement time is fast approaching. Keep your eyes peeled on the water this winter and you may see our crews putting the new vessel (and ourselves) through the paces to ensure that we and the rescue vessel are ready for that next call for help.

**Anthony Batchler**  
**Operations Officer**



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## RESCUES AND ASSISTS

Another training session that turned into an operation.

It's a Tuesday morning 16th May and Marine Rescue vessels PS30 and PS31 were heading to Salamander Bay for training when PS31 was activated by Port Stephens Water Police to render assistance to a large 19 metre (62 feet) sail catamaran with engine problems.

The vessel was anchored in shallow water at Oyster Cove near Lemon Tree Passage.

Navigating to Oyster Cove brings challenges due to the abundance of oyster leases, narrow channels with tight turns and very shallow waters - sometimes less than one metre deep.

Both rescue vessels headed to the location to determine the precise location of the catamaran.



Once on-scene it was determined that PS31 could undertake the assist even though the catamaran was only anchored in 1.5m of water.

A tow was established after helping the skipper of the vessel retrieve their anchor after as it was tangled in some old mooring lines.

PS31 initially had to manoeuvre alongside to establish lines. Both vessels were then turned on the spot to head back out the very narrow channel. A short tow was established to clear the channels and shallow water.

In clear water the tow was lengthened and both vessels headed back to D'Albora Marina.

At the marina the catamaran was again tied alongside PS31 and carefully maneuvered to a wharf. A very thankful skipper on the catamaran thanked all the crew on PS31.

Good job all round especially manoeuvring such a large vessel in tight and shallow waterways.

Well done Paul (left) on the helm of PS31 😊







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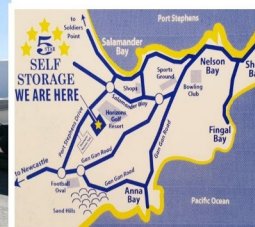
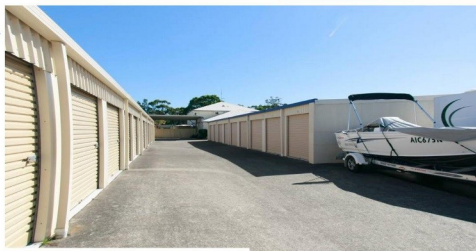
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## RESCUES AND ASSISTS CONT'D

A cuddy cabin runabout with engine issues was drifting around the Corlette Beach area and was close to the sailing vessels racing course on Saturday 20th May.

PS30 was tasked to locate and assist the runabout. Once on scene, PS30 crew quickly established a tow of the vessel back to Soldiers Point ramp - keeping out of the way of the number of races going on at the time.

Vessel and owners safely delivered back to the ramp.



Well done Brad as was his first operational role as Leading Crew vessel master.



With a number of training days lately turning operational, this Saturday morning training 20th May turned out to be no different and was again eventful and productive.

After being tasked to assist a Trimaran in Shoal Bay, both Marine Rescue Port Stephens rescue vessels left the marina to attend the Trimaran.

On locating the vessel, it could be seen what the issue was. Somehow the vessel's anchor had become fouled in a large metal structure it had picked up off the bottom of the seabed. Amazing what you can find by chance lying around the seabed! The owner of the vessel was going to be heading out further up the coast but was unable to disentangle the anchor.

Windy conditions and a mounting swell had the vessel drifting around the moorings. It was determined the best option was to put some rescue crew on the Trimaran to deal with the issue.

After some manipulation, the rather large piece of debris was stabilised and then with some close quarters boat manoeuvring, the anchor was pulled free.

Some clean up and a very happy boat owner then free to continue on his voyage without further incident.

A slightly unusual incident to deal with, however, job well done to boat crew for a successful outcome.





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- Where you're heading
- When you plan to return

We'll stand watch. If you don't Log Off as planned, our volunteers will start searching for you.

Log On whenever you're heading out on the water and Log Off when you return. We'll stand watch. If you don't Log Off as planned, our volunteers will start searching for you.

To Log On, call Marine Rescue Port Stephens on VHF Channel 16 or use the free Marine Rescue App. You can download the App at the App Store for Apple devices or Google Play for Androids.



You can always Log On, whether you're out for a morning's fishing, a day trip around your local area or cruising along the coastline. And it doesn't matter if you're on a tinnie, a cruiser, a yacht, a kayak, a canoe or a jet ski.

When you Log On via, our radio operator will ask you for some basic information about your vessel, your destination and contacts.

You'll enter the same details on your smartphone or other device if you're using the Marine Rescue app.

If you don't Log Off, this information will help us find you, whether you've simply forgotten to Log Off when you returned to shore or you're caught in an emergency and need help fast.

Tell us:

- Your boat registration number
- Where you're leaving from
- Where you're heading
- What time you plan to return
- The number of people on board
- Your mobile phone number

If the fish are biting and you decide to stay out longer, simply call Marine Rescue Port Stephens on VHF Ch 16 or use the Marine Rescue App to update your arrival time.

Remember to Log Off when you're back on shore. If you haven't let us know you're back safely, we'll start to look for you. We'll try calling you first up, just in case you've forgotten to Log Off and headed home with your catch. That's the best outcome. If we get no answer, we'll step up the response.

When you Log On via the App, choose the live safety tracking option so your position is updated in our vessel tracking system every 30 minutes. This means that in an emergency, our rescue crews will have a starting point for a search operation, based on your last known position, saving valuable time when minutes can mean the difference between life and death.

## **Skeds**

If you're travelling along the coastline, we encourage you to establish a voyage plan with Marine Rescue Port Stephens and an offshore tracking schedule for you to check in (to 'sked') with our bases along your route. This lets us know that you're travelling safely, on schedule and not in need of emergency help. We'll keep track of your progress until you safely arrive at your destination in NSW or we hand you over to the marine rescue service in the next State if you're travelling further north or south.

# Volunteers saving lives on the water



## GIFT SHOP



Hello from the Gift Shop,

We are looking forward to a little facelift to the front of the shop with a new navy awning to be fitted soon.

New stock has arrived for our coming up new financial year after annual stocktake has been done; we are sure customers will enjoy the new items.

Shirley Clark has been honoured by the Rotary Club with recognition for her 40 years of dedication to Marine Rescue and our new rescue boat will be named the "Shirley Clark", we are very proud of her. We are hoping for delivery of the new boat in June.

We are happy to welcome new members to the team and a big thank you goes to our dedicated team members for their effort and work in keeping the shop the success that it is.

Do pop in and take a look around.

# SOUVENIR & GIFT SHOP

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## OPEN 7 DAYS 9am ~ 3pm

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**Sandra Scheuber,**  
Gift Shop Manager



Some of our Gift Shop volunteer members  
From L to R: Leanne Tormey, Glenda Dean, Miranda Parkes, Deb Nolan





## JOIN OUR FUNDRAISING TEAM



# MARINE RESCUE

Port Stephens

## FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Fundraising is FUN..

Museum, Gift Shop, BBQs, Weddings and Promotional Events

Learn new skills, make new mates and serve your Community

Uniform & Training provided

**JOIN NOW**

or Phone Base 02 4981 3585





## FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is an important part of Marine Rescue Operations. We receive very limited operational support from the Government but over 80% of our day-to-day running expenses of our base are our responsibility. Our Fundraising team is made up of our members who also are active in operations, so many burn the candle at both ends. We recently have put out a call to members of the public to join MRPS just to do fundraising activities; we need people who have time to carry out shifts either at our Gift Shop, Promotion Days, Weddings, BBQs and Cottage Museum.



No Boat or Radio Room training is required. We also offer our members, once completed their probationary period, a uniform and opportunity to attend First Aid course run by Marine Rescue NSW, a registered training organisation. If you are interested in joining up call our base on 49813585 or online Marine Rescue NSW web page "Expression of Interest"

We have just started a new Major Raffle with a Yamaha Jet Ski and Trailer as the prize, supplied by Terrace Boating and will be running this raffle through to Australia Day 2024. Tickets are \$10 each or three for \$20 available in our Gift Shop and Radio Room which is again open to the public after the Covid shut down. All of our fundraising locations are listed below.



Terrace Boating Michael Riddett handing over our new raffle prize

### MARINE RESCUE NSW Port Stephens Unit

NAME.....

PHONE .....

ADDRESS .....

Drawn 26th January 2024 at Fly Point NSW

CFN21153

### MARINE RESCUE NSW – Port Stephens

(02) 4981 3585 - Lighthouse Road, NELSON BAY NSW 2315  
www.marinerescueportstephens.com.au

**TICKETS \$10 EACH or 3 FOR \$20**

#### PRIZE: JET SKI

Yamaha EK Deluxe  
Waverunner +  
registered ski and trailer  
including 3 lifejackets.  
Value: \$ 16,899

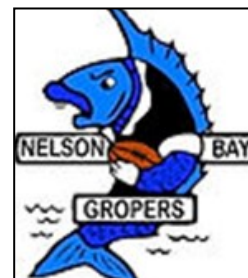


Drawn 26th January 2024 at Fly Point NSW

Volunteers Saving Lives on the Water

CFN21153

**Peter Young**  
Fundraising Officer





## MEMBERS' SOCIAL DAY TO BROUGHTON ISLAND



What better way to spend a day out than an easy boat trip to Broughton Island for a bush walk and picnic.

Members from Marine Rescue Port Stephens took the opportunity on Wednesday 3rd May for a bit of relaxation and exploring parts of the island. Some spectacular scenery, good tracks and bird life make this a great place for a visit.

There are camping sites (5) on the island, with basic amenities. The island is also a popular snorkelling and scuba dive site. It is also a key breeding site for wedge tailed shearwater birds.

If lucky, you may spot a seal or two resting on the rocky headlands, also some great beaches and the occasional dolphin sighting.



### Notice to Radio Users

**NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Broughton Island Conversation Society Incorporated is responsible for this radio equipment. This equipment is to be used for emergency and weather forecast purposes and is not for general public use. Any persons undertaking activity contrary to this notice will be prosecuted. Leave the radio on emergency channels 27.88 and VHF16 at all times. The radio equipment is not to be turned off at any time.**





# NELSON HEAD MUSEUM

## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

Two activities designed for children have recently been included as part of the Museum visitor experience.

'I Spy Something from the Past' is simply about finding the photographed items on the activity sheet in the museum and is targeted at younger children who may not yet be reading and writing. A couple are a little harder to spot but mostly it's an easy task. Yes, the children do tend to race around excitedly with the aim of finding everything rather than knowing what it is they've found. If they are interested, our museum guides will have a chat with them and explain what some of the more obscure items are, for example, hardly anyone knows what a boot scraper is these days. The old telephone in the hallway is so far removed from modern day communications some young children can't quite conceive it's a phone.



Marine Rescue Room



Assault Room

**I SPY  
SOMETHING FROM THE PAST**

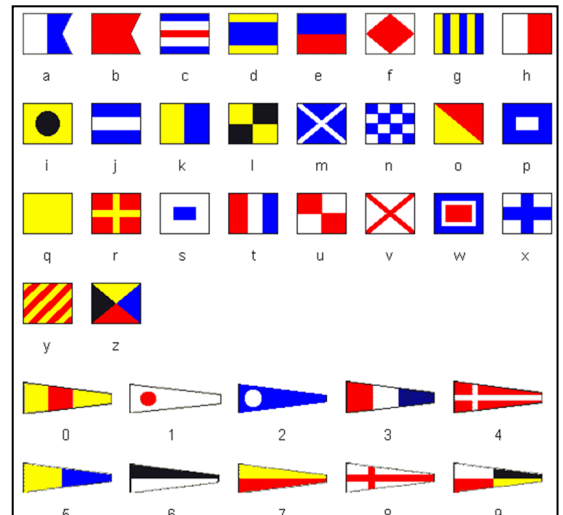
See how many things from the past you can find in our museum.  
Do you know what they are and how they were used?  
Maybe your parents can help you solve the mystery.  
Or you can ask our Museum Guide who can tell you all about these things.

The second activity revolves around international code flags and is a little more involved for primary school aged children. Around the museum, inside and outside, are 10 different images each of one flag and one pennant. The flag provides the letter of the alphabet whilst the pennant provides the numbered place in the word for the letter to go. All up there are 10 to be found which will spell out the code word. Again, a couple of the images are harder to spot but our helpful guides can assist in locating them if anyone gets stuck. Children already enjoy the code flags in the Light Room, pulling them out and identifying what they represent, so it seemed a logical extension to develop an activity around these flags.

Some parents have frankly looked quite relieved when our guides offered an activity to their children especially if they're waiting for a table in the Tea Rooms. Older siblings often join in and help the younger family members to find the answers.

*It is such a pleasure for all our guides to have children become excited and have fun whilst visiting the museum. We are potentially sowing the seeds of a life-long interest in our history by providing this fun experience.*

**Bronwen McLeod**  
Inner Light Museum Curator



Write the code letters in their correct places to reveal the hidden word.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

# Inner Light Weddings Nelson Head



What an amazing backdrop for incredible memories!

Tomaree and Yacaaba Headlands together with Port Stephens waters form a unique and amazing backdrop for your wedding ceremony.



Let us prepare the perfect venue for you and your guests.

You are able to style your wedding as little or as much as you wish utilising the items listed in our brochure, including set up by our volunteers, at no extra cost.



Plan your dream wedding ceremony in this idyllic and unique setting.

Prepare in the Charming Lightkeeper's cottage. Then make your grand entrance from this Heritage building.

For all wedding ceremony enquiries and to receive a copy of our information brochure, please contact:

Wedding Co-Ordinator

Mobile 0490 226 399

Email

weddings.portstephens@gmail.com



# Inner Light Weddings

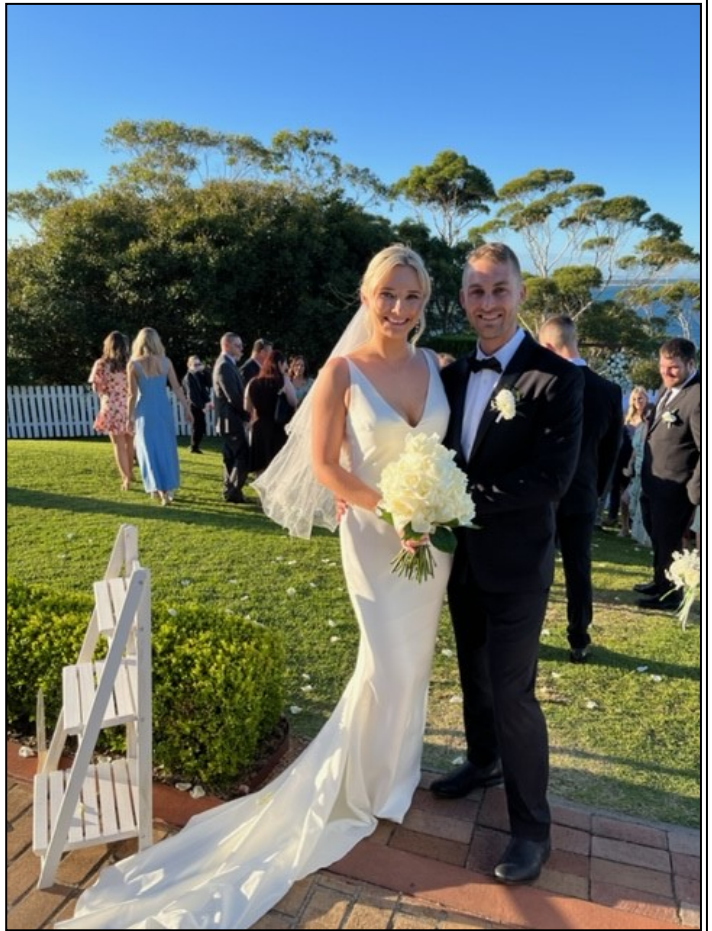


The bride could not have ordered a more perfect day than Friday 28th April, the sun was shining on our glorious waterway with 100 yachts sailing in the Sail Port Stephens 2023 regatta with all their coloured spinnakers in full sail.

The guests of the wedding, approximately 60, enjoyed the magnificent viewing until our wedding party arrived. The Bride's attendants were two bridesmaids, as well as a flower girl and page boy dressed and behaved so beautifully they stole the show, until the bride appeared.

Tevvi is a lovely tall and slim bride, showing her figure to perfection. The Bride's gown was very elegant of plain satin, a low V shape neckline, with narrow straps. The back is also low, forming into a row of covered buttons down the centre back, a rather longer train was formed into a beautiful shape, falling gracefully as she walked down to meet the Groom.

The Groom, looking very handsome in a dark suit, a white shirt with a black bow tie, waited anxiously for the bride to join him, making this couple look to perfection on this glorious day.



Wedding on the 24th March of Brodie Platt and Mark Douglas.

It was quite a big wedding of 70 guests with six attendants: three bridesmaids dressed in a rust tangerine colour dresses and their partners in white shirts and bone trousers, their outfits matched the arbour which was decorated with fresh flowers.

The Bride looked beautiful and very excited, her gown was quite unusual with a fine layer of lace covering her arms with an off the shoulder straight body lace gown to the knee then a gathered lace panel fell to the ground forming a small train, giving elegance and beauty, while her bouquet of fresh flowers matched the natural flowers in the arbour.

The Groom looked very handsome in casual bone trousers with a blue sports jacket and an opened neck white shirt.

Just as the wedding came to an end, a storm called their photos to an end with a quick exit.

*Congratulations and all the best wishes to the happy couples*  
**From the Wedding Team**

## MARINE RESCUE NSW PORT STEPHENS RESCUE VESSELS CURRENTLY IN SERVICE

The unit currently has two purpose built, specialised rescue vessels, crewed by motivated and trained volunteers who can be called upon at anytime, day or night, to head to the assistance of those who call.

A response time of 20 mins or less is estimated from alert to heading to sea. Our vessels boast a comprehensive inventory of the latest navigation, communication, safety and rescue technologies on board.

### PORT STEPHENS RESCUE VESSEL *PORT STEPHENS 31* *JOHN THOMPSON*



#### Specifications

Make / Model:	Steber International 38' - Category 3 SAR Vessel
Length:	11.46m (38ft)
Beam:	3.84m (12.6ft)
Displacement:	11.6 tonne
Draft:	1m
Fuel:	1350L
Engines:	Twin 420hp Yanmar diesel
Top Speed:	30kn
Crew:	Operational - normally 4
VHF:	Sailor 6222
Radar:	Raymarine Q24C Doppler
MFD's (Multifunction Display):	Raymarine Axiom 9 and 5 x Raymarine Axiom Pro 12 Hybrid Touch
AIS:	Raymarine AIS950
RDF:	Taiyo
27Mhz:	GME GX400B
DCN:	Tait TM9300

**Rescue Vessel Port Stephens 31 John Thompson** was built by Steber International, Taree, NSW and completed in May 2016. Her single hull is made of glass-reinforced plastic.

**Port Stephens 31** is fitted with state-of-the-art radar, direction finding and navigation equipment as well as forward looking infra red search equipment.

**John Thompson** has been prepared to Marine Rescue NSW specifications with minor customisation at the request of Port Stephens Unit and is capable of covering Port Stephens and anywhere along the coast for example Broughton Island, Seal Rocks and 30nm out to sea or further if tasked by MACSAR.



**PORT STEPHENS RESCUE VESSEL *PORT STEPHENS 30*  
*CODI-K II***



**Specifications:**

Make / Model:	Gemini WR-850
Type:	Rigid-Hull Inflatable (RHIB)
Length:	8.5m
Beam:	2.8m
Engines: -	2 x Suzuki four-stroke Outboards 200hp each (150kW)
Fuel Capacity:	2 x 200 litre tanks
Fuel Consumption:	Cruising speed - 50 litres / hour
Displacement:	3.2 tonnes
Survey:	2C
Crew:	4 operational
Speed:	Top speed around 40 knots. Cruising speed 25 to 30 knots.

**Rescue Vessel *Port Stephens 30 Codi-K II*** was manufactured in South Africa, prepared by Britton Marine of Taren Point NSW, and completed in February 2012. Her single hull is made of glass-reinforced plastic with alloy longitudinal keel reinforcement and her cabin is glass-reinforced plastic. She boasts among her electronic equipment a Raymarine Radar/Plotter, Furuno AIS Class-A and FLIR Thermal Night Vision System.

***Codi-K II*** has been prepared to Port Stephens Unit specifications in consultation with Marine Rescue NSW, and is capable of covering all of the areas of Port Stephens; ie, the Myall River system, Karuah River, and the other shallow areas of our waterways, as well as outside waters as required.





## Our service to Port Stephens 2005-31st January 2023

People saved/ assisted	7,339
Rescues and assists	3,415
Rescue Crew volunteer hours	7,734+
Radio Base volunteer hours	348,987+
Radio calls made/received	338,157
Telephone calls made/received	337,746

**Every day, Marine Rescue Port Stephens Members give more than 60 volunteer hours to serve our community.**

### KATE WASHINGTON MP



“Not a bad office 🍷 ⚓ 🌊  
It was great to catch up with  
[Marine Rescue Port Stephens](#) today and  
to thank the hardworking volunteers for  
keeping locals and visitors safe on our  
waters.

Source: “ Kate Washington MP Facebook Page

From L to R: Ian Matthew, Kate Washington MP, Trevor Moxham

## APPRECIATION



### **Contributors to this issue of *Port Chatter*:**

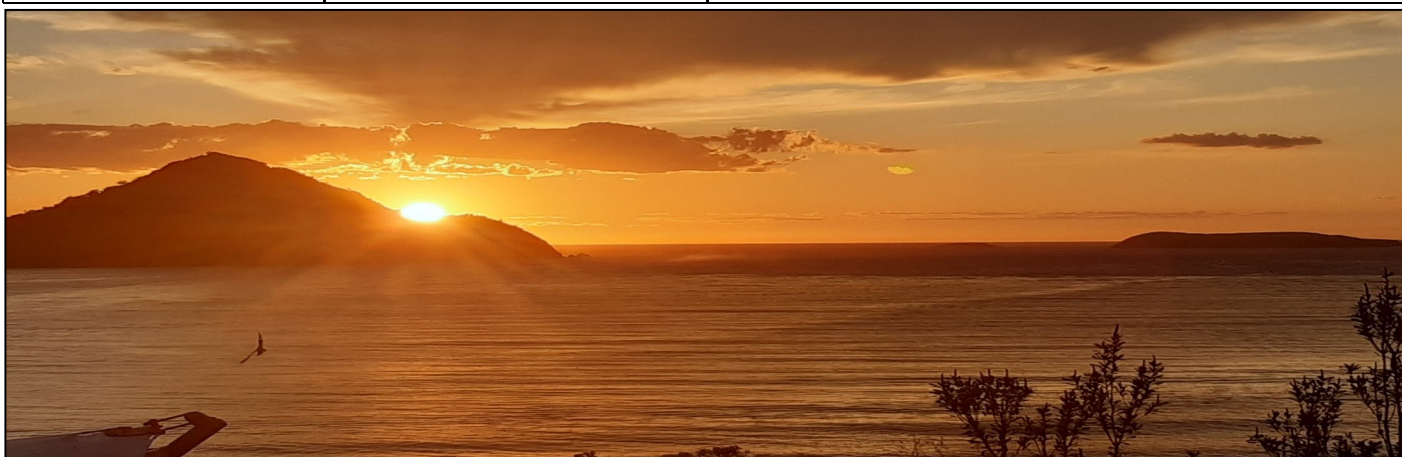
Ben van der Wijngaart, Colin Couper, Anthony Batchler, Peter Young, Peter Merlino, Jeff Dallinger (MRPS Facebook), Sandra Scheuber, Di Ballie, Lynn Gibson, Bloss Cleary, Graeme Abberton.

**Distributors of the *Port Chatter*:** The following people volunteer their time in making deliveries of this newsletter. Distribution Co-Ordinator: Ross Debenham, Peter Merlino, Elizabeth Francis, Maureen Wheatley and Marian Chappell.

**Advertisers in *Port Chatter*:** The following advertisements help support the unit and the production of

### *Please show your appreciation by giving them your custom.*

<b>Hairdresser</b>	Men's Barber Shop	Vince's Salamander Bay Barber Shop
<b>Home/Office</b>	Locksmith	Nelson Bay Locksmith Services
	Pools	Adept Pools
	Storage	5 Star Storage
<b>Health</b>	Chemists	Salamander Centre Pharmacy
		Shoal Bay Pharmacy
		Terry White Chemart Pharmacy, Nelson Bay
	Eye Care	Specsavers
<b>Funeral Services</b>		France Family Funerals
<b>Maritime</b>	Marina	Soldiers Point Marina
	Boating Sales and Repairs	Nelson Bay Outboard Services
	Fishing Supplies	Duff's Salamander Bait & Tackle (at Coles Express)
<b>Windscreen Repairs</b>		Novus Autoglass Shop
<b>Real Estate</b>		Century 21 Paradise Waters, Nelson Bay
<b>Restaurants and Cafes</b>		Inner Light Tea Rooms, Nelson Head
		Jetty Gelato Shoal Bay
<b>Radio Station</b>		Port Stephens FM 100.9



"Morning sunrise overlooking Port Stephens Entrance" Photo supplied by Graeme Abberton Watch Officer.



# MARINE RESCUE NSW



## SUBMIT YOUR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

### Port Stephens Unit

Marine Rescue Port Stephens currently has about 200 members, whose age and skill range are many and varied. Some members are still in full-time employment while many others are retired from full-time work and find great satisfaction comes from volunteering in a community assistance environment.

Regardless of your work/life situation you could bring your life and work skills with you when you volunteer at

Marine Rescue Port Stephens.

If you are interested in becoming a Member please scan the QR Code to fill in our Expression of Interest online

or Call our Radio Base on 02 4981 3585.



Volunteers saving lives on the water