

PORT CHATTER

SPRING 2023

MARINE RESCUE NSW PORT STEPHENS UNIT

'Volunteers Saving Lives on the Water'



New Rescue Vessel PS30 "Shirley Clark"



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 - SEPTEMBER 2023

Patrons:

Meryl Swanson MP, Federal Member Paterson
The Hon. Dr David Gillespie MP, Federal Member Lyne

Unit Commander: **Ben van der Wijngaart**
Welfare / Liaison: **Ross Debenham**
Assistant Welfare / Liaison: Helen Peterson
Protocol Officer: **Harold Gibson**

Deputy Unit Commander:: **Colin Couper**
 Emergency Services Liaison Officer: Colin Couper
 IT Officer/Network/Comms: Lee Ryman
 Deputy ITO: *Vacant*
 Data Management: Brian Richardson

Operations

Operations Officer: **Mick Duggan**
 Assistant Operations Officer: *Vacant*
 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, Ron Lighton, Graham Abberton, Neil Fraser, Colin Couper, Ben van der Wijngaart
 Duty Callout Officers: Neil Fraser, Peter Dentrinos, Frank van Druten, Julian Lyddy Meaney, Tony Baker, Graeme Abberton

Radio Club Manager: Elizabeth Francis
 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, Murray O'Dea, Peter Wood

Unit Training

Unit Training Officer: **Peter Dentrinos**
 Assistant Training Officer: *Vacant*
 Training Systems Officer: Jennifer Dunn
 Rescue Vessels Training Officer: *Vacant*
 Assistant RV Training Officer: Paul Radford
 Course Presenters: Ray McLeod, Ben van der Wijngaart, Riko Eguchi, Brad Polak

First Aid Presenters: Peter Dentrinos, Lisa Lodding

Corporate Services

Administration Officer:
 Assistant Admin. Officer: **Sue Freeman**
 Clerical Assistance: Deb Venables
 WH&S Officer: Erica Smith
 Honours/Awards: *Vacant*
 Provodore: Krystyna Winslow
 Data / Stats: *Vacant*
 Supply: Maureen Wheatley
 Margaret & Andrew Morrison
 Membership Officer: Sharon Barry
 Membership Support: Erica Smith

Fundraising Officer

Deputy FRO: **Peter Young**
 Food Service Coordinator: Ray McLeod
 Wedding Co-ordinator: *Vacant*
 Donation Boats: Bloss Cleary
 Gift Shop Manager: Angela Tilling
 Gift Shop Bookkeeper: Sandra Scheuber
 Grants Officer: Denise Olson
 John Reid

Community Relations

Community Relations Officer: **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: Mac Macullum, Jim Brennan
 Webmaster: Rob Guyder
 Assistant Webmaster: Mick O'Rourke

Finance

Treasurer: **Adrian Hill**
 Deputy Treasurer: *Vacant*

Facilities

Facilities Officer: **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

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



Keeping Up the Service

I am very conscious of the difficulties local businesses are having post-COVID-19 shutdown in hiring staff and coping with increased costs brought on by global turmoil

and associated cost spikes in fossil fuel and food. One only needs to dine out to find out how these costs are affecting us.

Marine Rescue is subject to the same cost pressures of course – particularly with regard to the costs of boat fuel and the supply of spare parts for our boats and in maintenance costs associated with operating the Nelson Head Base.

As part of the 5 year Strategic Plan put in place last September, we have been addressing operating costs, their containment and how we fund them.

To run our operation requires a budget of around \$190,000 annually of which only roughly \$30,000 is supplied by the State Government.

Costs are rising, but so are the demands on our services – the last financial year saw an increase of 7.5%, totalling 4,567 in NSW in the number of rescues to which Marine Rescue NSW responded.

We brought 10,000 boaters to shore, logged on 75,297 vessels (an annual increase on 15%), with 284,528 persons on board.

Of the 4,567 calls for assistance, 1,378 were in response to life saving situations. In total, our radio operators managed 467,857 radio and phone communications.



(Continued on page 7)

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Samantha Kirby
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Brody Jones
Property Manager
Licensed Agent
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Tyneale Kendrick
Administration
4984 4700



Lachlan Holden
Assistant Agent
4984 4700



Scarlett McInnes
Receptionist /
Trainee

UNIT COMMANDER CONT'D



How can you our principal clients, members of our boating community and water sports clubs (sailing, fishing, jet-skiing, diving), help?

Have you or your club or group thought that you could provide a major contribution to the safety net we provide by doing some occasional fundraising participation?

If a small team of 3 or 4 from your club could do a couple of half day shifts on wedding set-up teams or in the food van or at a Bunnings BBQ, it would be a big help to our fundraising efforts.

There is no training needed and free uniform provided... and you will be part of a valuable community service and a proud local tradition of saving lives on the water.

Worth a serious thought!

Behind all those operational and dollar statistics stand a dedicated group of volunteers. In our Unit, the largest in the region and among the busiest in the State, we have 180 volunteers working on the rescue vessels, the Communications Centre, the Gift Shop, the Cottage Museum and the Nelson Head Grounds.

But we need more members involved in fund raising to keep us going.

We need people to assist in our Weddings operation and our new Food Vending Trailer, in particular – our two major funding operations, aside from the Gift Shop, where extra help is also always welcome.



Ben van der Wijngaart
Unit Commander
Marine Rescue Port Stephens



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DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER

Why You Should Logon to Marine Rescue

Marine Rescue NSW offers the leisure boating public a service to logon with any of its 45 Units to record a trip either to a destination and then return (a LOCAL) or to another destination (a TRANSIT). If it is the latter, the information provided about the vessel and the trip will be passed on to the Unit in whose area the vessel will end its voyage. It will also allow in a Transit voyage for regular SKEDs to be made with other Units along the way.

Whether Local or Transit, the whole idea is that someone is aware of your being out on the water especially if you're on your own.

During a logon conversation on the radio or telephone, from the initial contact only, information about yourself and your vessel will be asked for. This includes registration number, type, size, hull colour, skippers name and an onshore contact name and phone number. Other information may be provided such as car registration, make and colour and trailer registration, if appropriate.

From then on, all the information that is needed for each trip will be where you launched from, where you are going, number of people on board and an onboard mobile phone number. For a Local logon, when you expect to return and if a Transit, when you expect to arrive. Other information for a Transit may be when you expect to make the first Sked and with which Base.

The MRNSW App allows all this detail to be recorded in the app and the logon to be made by your phone without calling the Base by radio or phone. The nearest Base will be alerted to the logon and will inspect the details of the voyage and accept the logon into the statewide Seahawk recording system.

So here's an example.

On 1st August, a lone fisherman logged on using the app for a Local trip from the Little Beach ramp to Fingal and also around the Islands, with a logoff time of 1700 (5.00 pm). The Seahawk system showed that he went overdue at that time and following the laid down procedures, the crew in the Communication Centre attempted to contact him numerous times on the onboard mobile number supplied, by sending SMS and on VHF radio. The mobile number never went to voicemail so no message could be left. This attempted contact information is added into the Seahawk vessel record each time to provide an audit trail.

Again, following procedure, the Zone Duty Operations Manager was alerted at 1730 and a Seahawk Incident Management System report created. The details in the logon record showed his make of car and the car registration number. The Radio Operator went down the hill to the ramp parking area and indeed the car and trailer were still there.

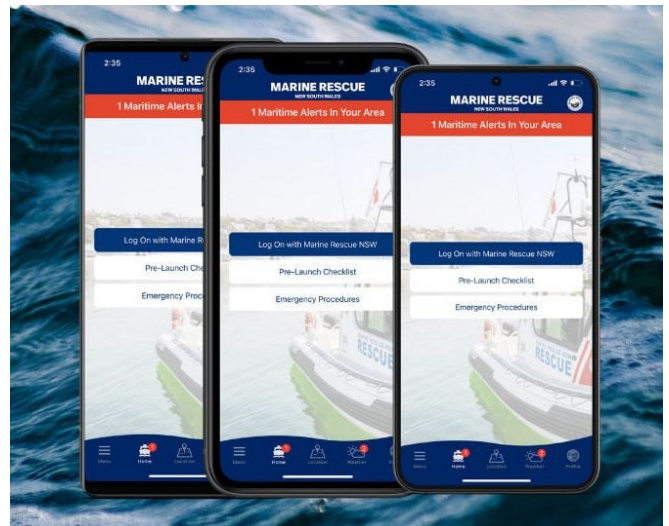
We continued to try to contact the vessel but at 60 minutes overdue, we needed to call Marine Area Command (MAC) NSW Water Police. MAC also has access to the MRNSW Seahawk system so were alerted to the communication attempts that had been made. That the car was still in the carpark was passed on to MAC and together with another piece of information they had received, it was found out that the skipper was on dry land. But his boat was not, as it was rolling around in the surf line at Bennetts Beach, just south of Hawkes Nest on the north shore of Port Stephens.

The MAC requested MRPS to put out a Securite navigation warning to other vessels over the radio every hour on the half-hour overnight as a high tide of 2 meters was due in at 2000 hours and it was possible the vessel would float out past the breakers.

As a lone fisherman, the skipper did the right thing by logging on with MRPS using the app. Seahawk alerted us to the overdue and by following procedure, we were able to allow MAC to ensure the skipper was safe.

Both myself and MRO Geoff left that shift knowing that the system works!

Colin Couper
Deputy Unit Commander



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OPERATIONS OFFICER

Recently we took delivery of our newest Rescue Vessel – a 10-metre Naiad built by Yamba Welding & Engineering. This boat has been built to AMSA, MRNSW and our own very demanding specifications, to ensure that we can continue to provide the level of “Search and Rescue” capabilities that the boaters of Port Stephens have come to expect from Marine Rescue Port Stephens.

The 10-metre Naiad is an extremely strong and stable vessel and is fitted with all the latest technology to aid us in assisting you, the boating public, whenever you find yourself in “distress”. This may be just a simple matter of a broken-down engine, flat battery or water in your fuel.... Or, it might be that you are disabled and drifting towards a rocky shoreline in strong winds and in danger of serious mishap.

Whatever... we are here to help you. All you need to do is contact Marine Rescue Port Stephens by radio (VHF 16 or 27MHz) or by phone (4981 3583) and our highly-trained team will get under way to assist you.

Our new boat's Call Sign is “PS-30”, and her name is “Shirley Clark” – in honour of one of our longest-serving members who, at the age of 92, is still actively volunteering in the MRPS Gift Shop. Shirley and her late husband Kevin were founding members of the (then) Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol, with Kevin serving as our first Divisional Commander and both undertaking many hours on the marine radios in our Communications Centre.

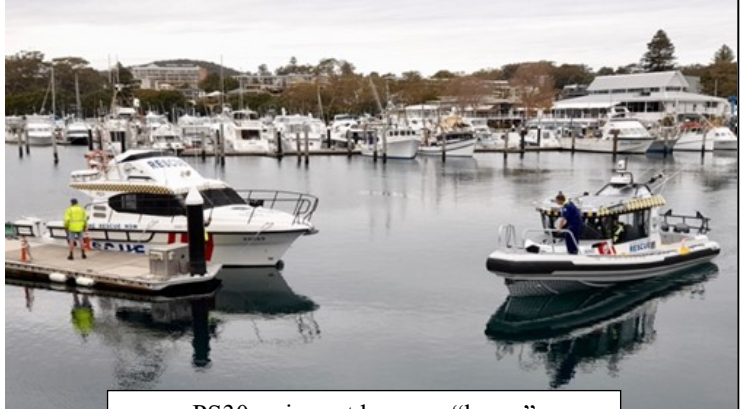
PS-30 was delivered to us in late June and we quickly started to get her “Operational Ready” by completing the fit out with all the necessary safety equipment and training the Crew to ensure safe operation. Within just over a week, we received a satisfactory “Operational Readiness Inspection” (ORI) from our Zone Duty Operations Manager and PS-30 was put into immediate service.

PS30 is designed for operations in open waters up to 30 Nautical Miles offshore (that's almost 60 Kilometres), covering the area between Seal Rocks and half-way to Newcastle. That's an area of over 4,500 square kilometres offshore, PLUS the inshore waters of Port Stephens. Our inshore territory includes from the Heads to west of Soldiers Point and everything in between, and up the Myall River to the Broadwater and the Myall Lake inshore from Seal Rocks.

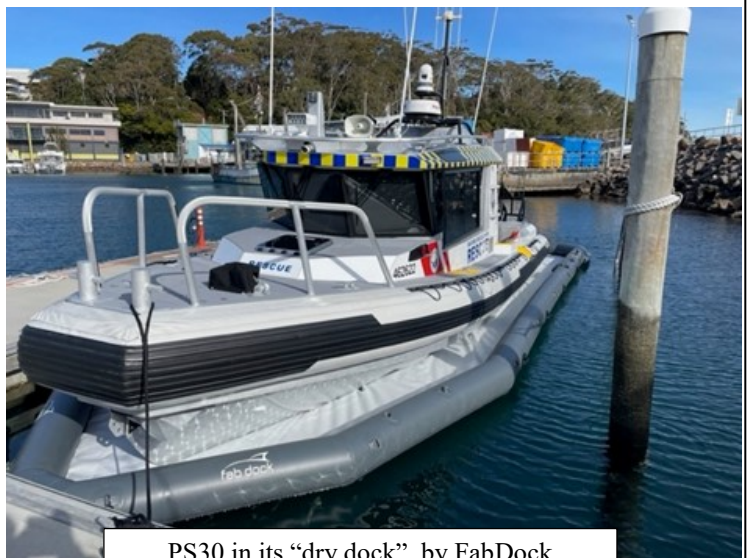
PS30 is fitted with Doppler RADAR, Forward Looking Infra-Red camera (FLIR), Radio Direction Finding (RDF), multiple Radio Frequencies (VHF, 27MHz, Surf Life Saving), Mobile and Satellite phones, the latest Navigational devices, state-of-the-art Vessel Management electronics, and comprehensive First Aid

and Resuscitation equipment (including Oxygen and an Emergency Defibrillator Device).

We, as Crew and operators of PS30, are extremely proud of our new vessel, and the improved capabilities that it provides. We look forward to continuing our professional service to the Port Stephens community.



PS30 arrives at her new “home”



PS30 in its “dry dock”, by FabDock

PS30 ‘Shirley Clark’ has already been tasked to numerous vessel assists, ranging from an 11m yacht south of Fingal Bay with steering problems (towed to Nelson Bay), and a long night-time job involving a 5.75m Open Runabout north of Broughton Island with two flat batteries (towed back to Hawks Nest).

(Continued on page 13)



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OPERATIONS CONT'D

(Continued from page 11)

SAREX / SARDEX – Lake Macquarie

A number of our Boat Crew and Watch Officers recently participated in a SAREX (Search And Rescue Exercise) conducted jointly by MRNSW, Marine Area Command (the Water Police) and SLSC (Surf Life Saving) in, and offshore from, Lake Macquarie.

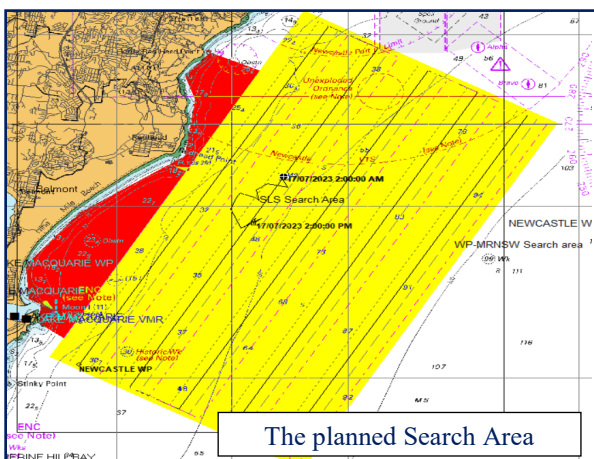
The objectives of the exercise were to:

- Test the relative capabilities of the three agencies;
- Test communications between all assets (vessels and shore-based);
- Provide a real-time training opportunity for On-Water Assets and SAR Coordinators;
- Develop inter-agency relationships; and
- Display our capabilities to the public via the Media (Radio, TV, Social Media etc).

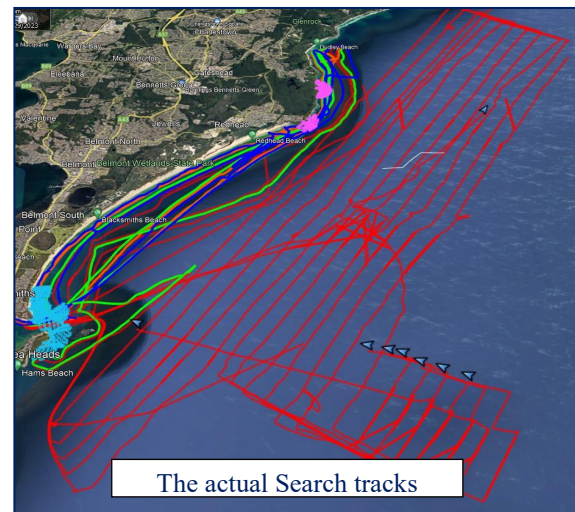
The SAREX was 'scenario-based', designed to be as realistic as possible, involving MRNSW, the Water Police, and Surf Life Saving assets, as well as the shore-based Radio Operators and Watch Officers in the SRCC (Search and Rescue Coordination Centre).

The scenario was an overturned Newcastle Pilot Vessel, with two people saved, but two people missing in the waters off the Swansea/Red Hill area. The SRCC operators determined the LKP (Last Known Position) of the PIWs (Persons In the Water), the likely drift patterns given local wind and water currents information, and hence the EP (Estimated Position) where they most likely could be found.

A search pattern was then developed to cover the area around the EP (see picture), and a total of 5 Rescue vessels (Water Police plus MRNSW) commenced searching off-shore, while 4 vessels (MRNSW and SLSC) searched in-shore, closer to the beaches and headlands of this rugged coastline. SLSC also made use of a number of UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles – ie, Drones).



The search area was comprehensively covered, with all eyes on the lookout for 2 life-sized “dummies” floating in the water. The designated Search Area, and the tracks of all vessels (and drones) are shown in the below picture, which I'm sure you'll agree is very comprehensive.



I am pleased to announce that both “dummies” were found by PS30 ‘Shirley Clark’, and the exercise was declared a resounding success by the organisers from both MRNSW and the Marine Area Command (Water Police), with all objectives having been met.

Vessel Operations

The last couple of months during winter has seen the normal slowing down of boating activities in our waters. Nevertheless, whenever boaters of Port Stephens get into trouble, we have to be ready to respond. Such was the case recently, when we were called upon to assist a couple in their 5.25m Runabout who had trouble with the motor. Not your ordinary type of trouble.... The 90hp Johnson had broken its mountings and fallen into the water! It was only attached by the fuel line, throttle cables and steering link. They had been in outside waters doing a bit of fishing and whale watching, but fortunately the problem occurred when they were in very calm waters just a couple of kilometres short of the Lemon Tree Passage boat ramp.

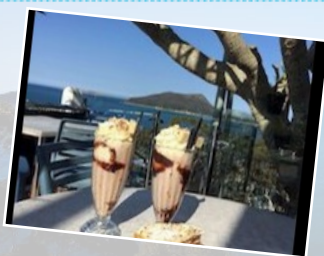
We were able to secure the motor using ropes, and then towed them alongside us very slowly (about 3 knots) the rest of the way to the LTP ramp.

It was an interesting assist, a type we don't see very often, but it emphasises the need to regularly inspect and service your boats so that you don't run into unforeseen trouble. Who knows... this could have happened when they were just metres away from our rocky shoreline, with wind and current pushing them towards possible disaster.

Take care on the water....

Laurie Nolan
(Acting) Operations Officer

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER

As someone famous once said, there's no such thing as bad publicity. So following that theme Community Relations has been busy this month with plenty of stories about Marine Rescue Port Stephens exploits making it to the papers, radio, Facebook, our website and PSFM live crosses including:

The surprise our own famous Life Member Shirley Clark received learning her son and daughter-in-law had secretly become radio operators in training at Marine Rescue Port Stephens.



The simulated rescue exercise, known as a SIMEX, held at Lake Macquarie, even made the NBN news.

With the recent batch of Honours coming from the commissioner for our members we have recognised them with an update of our Honour Boards in the Communications Centre. The boards are with our supplier now and the new boards have been approved and are in production, so look out for them being presented at a suitable time soon. You can now also see the updated Honours List on our website, so check it out.

A new initiative to let more people know about our fabulous weddings service team has started so you'll be seeing more about our weddings on Facebook and our website in the future.

Frank Van Druten
Community Relations Officer



The launch of our new rescue vessel PS30 Shirley Clark. Various actual rescues especially the boat with a sinking outboard motor, making the front pages. The jet ski raffle on display at Salamander shops.

The new food trailer spotted at Harvey Norman, Gropers rugby games and various other community events.



GIFT SHOP

Well time marches on and Spring is almost here. The weather has been treating us kindly and sales are improving with customers turning their thoughts to pre-Christmas shopping. Our next target is to serve our September School Holiday customers.

We are still suffering staff shortages as some of our ladies have been unwell and have on-going family commitments, we are grateful to shop members who are doubling up regularly.

If you like talking to people and welcoming both locals and visitors from interstate and overseas and you have a few hours to spare—just three hours a week would be a great help!

We have lots of new stock and would love to welcome you into the shop so pop in and say hello.

Sandra Scheuber,
Gift Shop Manager

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NELSON HEAD MUSEUM



The Lighthouse Keeper's Logbook leads to all sorts of interesting and unexpected stories just by choosing a random vessel name and delving into its history. Recently I noticed the 'destroyer Drayton' being logged into Port Stephens in 1943. It piqued my curiosity. I had assumed it would be an Australian Naval vessel but it belonged to the U.S. Navy.

The USS Drayton was quite a new vessel having been launched in March 1936 with a displacement of 1,500 tons. She joined the Scouting Force of the Pacific Fleet and carried 158 officers and crew along with a range of armament. She was classified as a Mahan class destroyer. The Drayton also had a nickname, the "Blue Beetle" – more about that later.

Interestingly one of her first duties was the search for Amelia Earhart who had disappeared while flying over the Pacific. Whilst her home port was Pearl Harbour, the Drayton was at sea when Pearl Harbour was bombed. The Drayton then spent much of WW2 as an escort to transport convoys moving around the Pacific Ocean. In 1943, the year she was recorded in Port Stephens, the Drayton spent much of the summer escorting Australian troop transports from Townsville to Milne Bay, PNG. She also spent time in Brisbane for a brief overhaul.



So why the "Blue Beetle"? It was all to do with camouflage. Once the USA became actively involved in WW2, their Navy began to develop new standards of camouflaging and disorienting paint. Each camouflage scheme had its own identification classification and some were quite complex. The number of camouflage schemes expanded with the growing spread of naval operations into new areas.

In October 1941 when the Drayton was photographed, she was decked out in a bright sapphire blue camouflage intended to mimic the colour of the Pacific Ocean and thus make her invisible to the enemy. This was an experimental measure as a precursor to Measure 11 (described as Sea Blue) and to be used in the Pacific and the Mediterranean. During the Battle

of the Coral Sea and the Battle of Midway, ships wearing Measure 11 came under attack less often than those wearing Measure 12. (Detailed descriptions of the different camouflage measures can be found on the internet).

[World War II ship camouflage measures of the United States Navy - Wikipedia](#)

Whilst the Measure 11 camouflage earned the Drayton the nickname Blue Beetle, she was photographed in 1944 in Measure 31 as shown in the second photo which would suggest she didn't remain blue for very long.

The USS Drayton (DD-366) had a short life despite surviving WW2. She was sold for scrap in December 1946 and broken up but no doubt remembered by many of her crew as the Blue Beetle.

Bronwen McLeod
Inner Light Museum Curator

SUBMIT YOUR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Port Stephens Unit

Marine Rescue Port Stephens currently has about 180 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 the great satisfaction which 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

FUNDRAISING

Marine Rescue Port Stephens is a volunteer organisation which relies on the people of Port Stephens (and visitors!) to a great degree to assist us in the running of our base for us to maintain a 24 hr Radio Watch and Rescue Vessels.

We do it by being pro-active with fundraising - we are currently selling raffle tickets in a Jet Ski prize, which includes the trailer and life jackets valued at over \$16,000!! The tickets are available at our Radio Room and Gift Shop at the Nelson Head Reserve, Salamander Bay Shopping Centre, Bunnings and from our Food Truck at the Homemaker Centre in front of the Harvey Norman complex on designated days.



Food Truck! Yes, Marine Rescue Port Stephens now have a Food Truck on the Road - look out for it around the Bay. The trailer is a fully equipped commercial kitchen, an approved food sales unit and the volunteers have trained in Food Safety at the Community College. We are selling Steak Sandwiches, Hot Dogs, Bacon and Egg Rolls and the good old Sausage Sandwich.

Along with our Gift Shop and Weddings on the Nelson Head Reserve and the Historic Light House Museum we are hoping to raise consistent funds to support our 24/7 Rescue Vessels and Communications Centre.

None of this can happen if we don't have the people to operate the various venues – if you have a few hours to spare, uniform and training provided, come and join our Team! It's a lot of fun and a great feeling of satisfaction in helping the community.



Gary Keschel on cooking duties in the new Food Truck

Peter Young
Fundraising Officer

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

A magical day showed for the Bridal couple Smile and Jason Bourke on Saturday 17th June 2023. What a beautiful area they chose for their "Micro Wedding".

Smile arrived early in a stunning gown, fitting to perfection, showing her lovely slender figure.



The bodice of the gown was of beautiful lace with a low V shaped neckline that fell over her shoulders into a narrow lace panel forming strap sleeves. A fine row of covered buttons down the back formed the lace bodice to the waistline.

A very full skirt of sparkling tulle was shaped to show the true elegance of this beautiful gown, forming a full gathered train to flow gracefully as the bride walked to meet the groom. A narrow satin clip held a long fine tulle veil to fall over the gown at the back to give a misty romantic appearance for a perfect bride.

A very nervous Groom dressed in a smart grey suit, with an open neck white shirt trimmed with black piping on the collar waited anxiously on the stage under the arbour as he watched his elegant Bride walk to join him.



The wedding of Sam and Jeff on Friday 14th July 2023.

Sam and Jeff Moulds chose our glorious area to begin their life together on a perfect winter day; the sun shining on the water gave our guest a true view of beauty as the cruisers motored past leaving a wake trail, while the sailing boats had their spinnakers up trying to catch the breeze.



The grounds for the wedding have been manicured to perfection by our Maintenance Team, while the Wedding Team worked hard to have the stage with the arbour and chairs and all the trimmings ready for the guests to arrive.

The guests on coming into the grassed area were astonished with the perfection of the grounds as they looked down towards the stage with other guests already admiring the magical view.

The groom, smartly dressed in a dark suit, white shirt and tie, was waiting anxiously for his Bride to appear from our Heritage Cottage.

Sam made her entrance in a beautiful gown, with a jewelled lace bodice, forming a heart shaped neckline with a low back laced to the waist. The lace was carried over to the hipline to a full gathered skirt of sheer fabric, forming a long train which was complimented by scattered jewels that sparkled in the sun as the Bride walked towards her Groom.



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 including Broughton Island, Seal Rocks and 30nm out to sea or further if tasked.

PORT STEPHENS RESCUE VESSEL *PORT STEPHENS 30*
SHIRLEY CLARK



Specifications

Make/Model:	Yamba Welding and Engineering, NAIAD 10M Rescue Vessel
Length:	10 Metres (33 feet)
Beam:	3.22 Metres (10.5 feet)
Displacement:	4.545 Tonnes
Draft:	0.77 Metres
Fuel:	900 Litres
Engines:	2 x 300 HP Suzuki V6 Outboards
Top Speed:	42 Knots
Crew:	Operational – normally 3-4
VHF:	Icom IC-M605EUROB VHF Radio
Radar:	Raymarine Quantum Radar T70416
MFD's (Multifunction Display)	3 x Raymarine Axiom 12" Pro and 1 x Raymarine 9"
AIS:	AIS 4000 Class A AIS
RDF:	Rotheda RDF RT-300
27MHz:	GME GX400B 27Mhz Radio
DCN:	Tait TM 9355 Radio

Rescue Vessel Port Stephens 30 Shirley Clark was built by Yamba Welding and Engineering, Yamba, NSW and completed in June 2023. Her single hull is made of aluminium.

Port Stephens 30 is fitted with state-of-the-art radar, direction finding and navigation equipment as well as forward looking infra red search equipment.

Shirley Clark has been prepared to Marine Rescue NSW specifications with minor customisation at the request of Port Stephens Unit and is capable of covering the area between Port Stephens and anywhere along the coast including Broughton Island, Seal Rocks and 30nm out to sea or further if tasked.

APPRECIATION



Contributors to this issue of *Port Chatter*:

Ben van der Wijngaart, Colin Couper, Laurie Nolan, Bronwen McLeod, Frank Van Druten, Peter Young, Sandra Scheuber, Di Ballie, Lynn Gibson.

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 quarterly newsletter.

Please show your appreciation by giving them your custom.

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

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR FUNDRAISING RAFFLE

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.
Valued: \$16,899



Drawn 26th January 2024 at Fly Point NSW

Volunteers Saving Lives on the Water

CFN21153