

PORT CHATTER

AUTUMN 2024

MARINE RESCUE NSW PORT STEPHENS UNIT

'Volunteers Saving Lives on the Water'





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 - MARCH 2024

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: Paul Radford
 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, Michael Duggan

Duty Callout Officers: Frank Van Druten (lead), Neil Fraser, Peter Dentrinos, Julian Lyddy Meaney, Tony Baker, Graeme Abberton

Radio Club Manager: Glenda Dean
 Boats Manager: Laurie Nolan
 Assistant Manager: Tony Baker
 Ashes Scattering Coordinator: Harold Gibson
 Chief Engineer: Ian Drummond
 Coxswains: Sue Freeman, Robert Johnson, Laurie Nolan, Brian Bibbing, Iain Blackadder, Michael Duggan, Murray O'Dea, Peter Wood, Nigel Eves, Howard Faulks

Unit Training

Unit Training Officer: **Howard Faulks**
 Assistant Training Officer: Brad Polak
 Training Systems Officer: Jennifer Dunn
 Rescue Vessels Training Officer: Iain Blackadder
 Assistant RV Training Officer: Michael O'Rourke
 Radio Training Officer: Riko Eguchi
 Course Presenters: Peter Dentrinos, Paul Radford, Ben van der Wijngaart, Riko Eguchi, Brad Polak

Corporate Services

Administration Officer: **Alana Green**
 Assistant Admin. Officer: Deb Venables
 Clerical Assistance: Erica Smith
 WH&S Officer: Glenn Matzon
 Honours/Awards: Miranda Parkes
 Providedore: *Vacant*
 Data / Stats: Maureen Wheatley
 Supply: Margaret & Andrew Morrison
 Membership Officer: Sharon Barry
 Membership Support: Erica Smith

Fundraising Officer:

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

Community Relations

Community Relations Officer: **Frank Van Druten**
 Public Relations/Social Media: Stephen Barrett
 Port Chatter / Wavelength
 Editor: Morgan Bell
 Assistant Editor: Geoff Williams
 Social Media (Facebook): Jeff Dallinger
 Assistant: Murray O'Dea
 Social Committee: Mac McCallum, 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).

UNIT COMMANDER'S REPORT

UNIT COMMANDER



Loss of a dear crewmate

There are times when we can honour those among us who have completed sterling service while they are still with us and sometimes it's too late and they leave us before we can formally say 'Thank you' for all that you have contributed to

make our community a better place with the talents you have.

We fortunately had such an opportunity with Bill Haskell last month with the award of Unit Life Membership after 16 years of dedicated service to Marine Rescue.

Bill had not been well for some time after a fall in Tasmania while on leave, but the hardy soul he was, he turned up at the February Unit Meeting for the presentation of his award.

The citation is worth quoting:

"Presented with the grateful thanks of Marine Rescue Port Stephens and the Port Stephens community for your commitment to dedicate countless hours maintaining the Unit's rescue vessel engines to the highest standards of service.

The sustained and consistent dedication you displayed when on duty and as the Chief Engineer has been over and above the normal expectations and in that you upheld the Unit's mission of "Volunteers saving lives on the water".

Your willingness to undertake additional responsibilities within the Unit, mentoring incoming members and advising the executive has been exemplary and appreciated by your peers.

Unit Life Membership is the highest award that can be accorded to a Unit member by his/her peers.

Sadly, Bill passed away in his sleep only days later on 16 February.

Bill was totally and reliably dedicated to the job with a quiet professionalism that was respected by all with whom he came in contact. I always enjoyed working with him in the Communications Centre as he was patient, helpful and always ready for a laugh.

Bill was liked by everyone, nothing was ever a problem to him and he would go out of his way to assist any member

He was a man who truly loved being on boats and helping others on boats – be it our rescue vessels or members of the boating public in strife.



Our ethos in Marine Rescue is about selfless service without financial reward, as volunteers, saving lives on the water. Bill surely exemplified that in his 16 years of helping the boating community.

His calm demeanour and his wry humour made him a popular crew-mate and respected elder in our business – both down at the dock and in our Communications Room.

The large turn-out of our Unit members at the celebration of his life at the Port Stephens Yacht Club demonstrated the affection with which he was held.

His sudden loss was a shock to us all.

Ben van der Wijngaart
Unit Commander

VALE BILL HASKELL



During the 2019-2020 Bushfires, Bill was one of 20 Radio Marine Rescue Operators volunteered their time and were working at East Maitland 37 of the 44 days of the emergency. They volunteered in excess of 500 hours to assist the RFS.



Bill and Laurie completing sponson repairs in 2021.



Bill replacing windows on PS40, Danial Thain in 2015.



Our Chief Engineer, Bill Haskell, with the 2 technicians from Sydney Diesel in 2019.



Bill and Robert working in very cramped and difficult conditions to drop back the shafts, they spent most of the day in that hole. Hot and dirty work in 2015.



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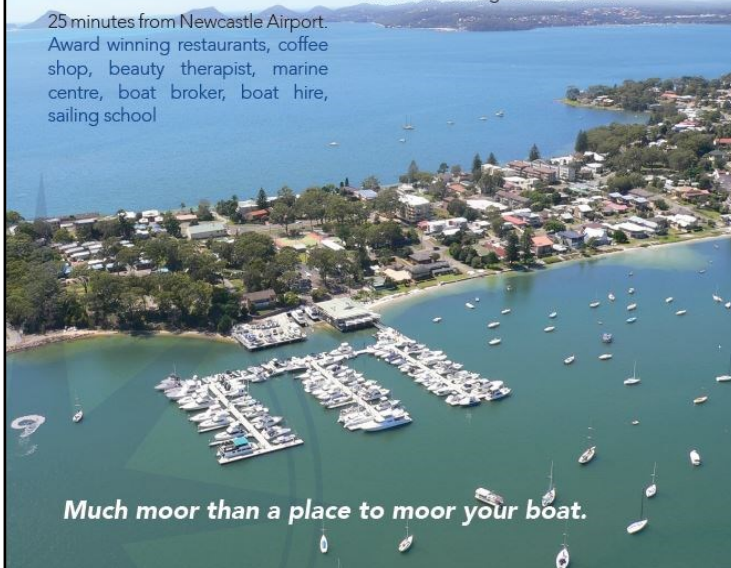
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DEPUTY UNIT COMMANDER

New Version of Seahawk

After lengthy development and testing, an updated version of the software that allows the logging on and tracking of vessels is to be released later this month.

When vessels logon with any of the 46 MRNSW Units, the radio operator accesses a statewide database of boat information from those vessels that have previously used the service.

After obtaining basic information such as the number of people on board, a mobile phone number, the departure point, the destination and time of return, the vessel's voyage is entered into the system.

The Incident Management System (IMS) is also located in Seahawk. It is used to record details and communications for any task that Marine Rescue undertakes when assisting a vessel. It can be used during the incident to keep the Zone Operations Manager, Maritime Area Command and the Unit's management up to date on the progress and eventual resolution of the task undertaken.

The new version 2 improves ease of use and has added features included, such as the sending and recording of SMS messages from within the software.

Colin Couper
Deputy Unit Commander

RAFFLE WINNER

The Marine Rescue Port Stephens raffle of a Yamaha WaveRunner Jet Ski package concluded on 26 January. The winning ticket was announced in the afternoon during the Australia Day festivities at Fly Point reserve.

The winner was Steve Scott from Umina on the Central Coast. Congratulations Steve!

Steve was over the moon as he had never won a raffle in his life. The prize included a registered trailer and three lifejackets. Now all he needs is a tow bar.

The raffle was drawn by Cassandra from Terrace Boating Heatherbrae.

All volunteers from Marine Rescue Port Stephens wish to thank everyone who purchased tickets in the raffle. The much-needed funds will help assist with the running costs of the rescue unit.



GIFT SHOP



Image credit: @reedgiftfairs
Pictured: Example of products on display at Reed Gift Fair Sydney, ICC Darling Harbour

Well the season has changed so a little facelift for the gift shop will follow.

The gift shop manager, Sandra, and Denise attended the Sydney Trade Fair. They purchased some new and interesting items. They also reported the Fair had a much smaller representation from exhibitors this year.

Sandra is on holiday at the moment having a much needed break. Currently a few staff members are on the 'not very well' list, so double shifts have been the norm.

All in all the shop is doing well, so please feel free to pop in for a browse and friendly chat.

Di Baillie for Sandra Scheuber
Gift Shop Manager



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OPERATIONS OFFICER

Marine Rescue Port Stephens is made up of several group functions. These functions include the Executive, an Operations group, a Training group, Corporate Services, a Fundraising group, a Community Relations group, a Treasurer group, and a Facilities group.

Some volunteers in Marine Rescue work in only one group but a large number work in several groups to help keep the boating community safe.

The Operations group is made up of two distinct areas, those being the Communications Centre, and the Rescue Vessel areas.

The Communications Centre is the hub of the group that continually monitors the distress/contact radio frequencies and telephones 24 hours a day 365 days a year. This group handles the routine communications with vessels entering and leaving the port ready to react should they receive that distress call.

The Rescue Vessels are the response area of the team, with a dedicated group of trained volunteers who are prepared to go out and assist a boater in all sorts of weather, day or night.

For the most part the Operations functions at Marine Rescue Port Stephens are what we might call routine.

We have Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for most things we do. These procedures range from how our boat crews work out on the water to how our Communication Operators handle the routine radio and telephone calls made to our Communications Centre.

We are continually training so that when the routine occurs our responses are what we might call “text book”.

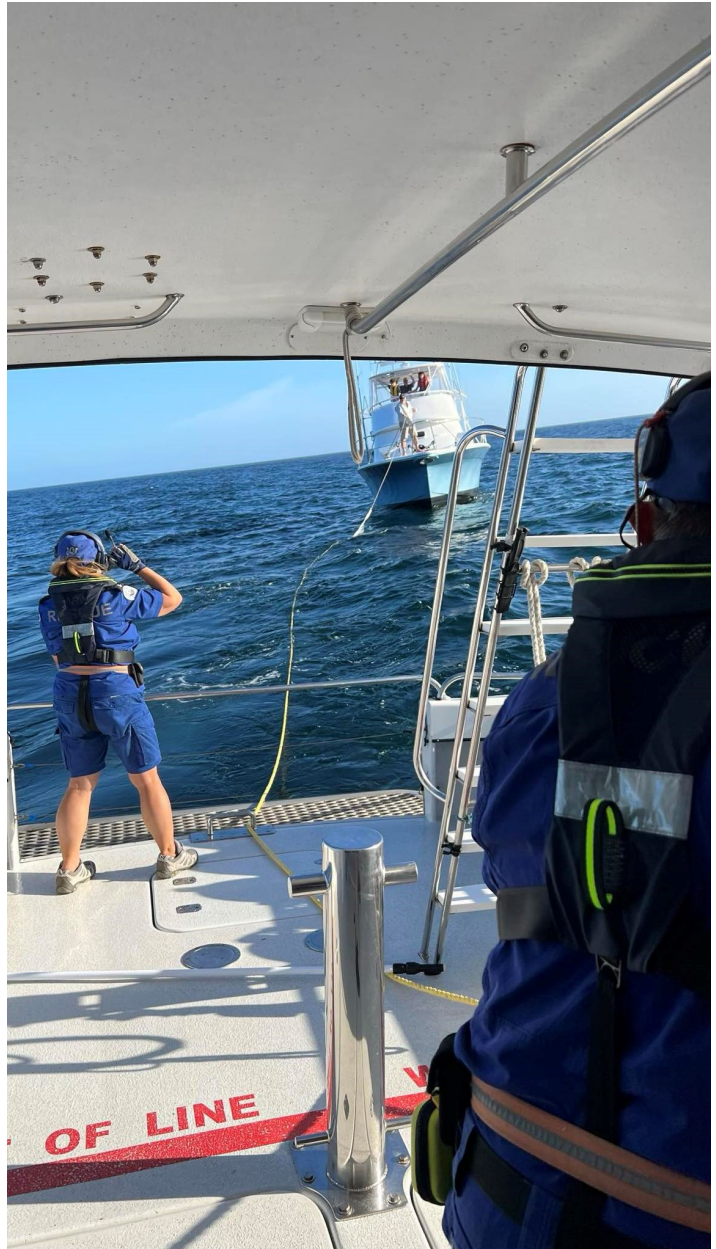
We are an Emergency Service and what we really want is to respond professionally to the non-routine distress situations.

Our experience shows that when distress incidents occur they are generally not “routine”.

That is when our comprehensive training regime brings out the best in our people and they can manage professionally those many and varied situations.

Our boat crews are always faced with varying weather conditions and physical locations. Good basic training gives them the flexibility to handle the routine and especially the challenging situations (and there are many).

Similarly our Communication Operators are continually monitoring all the distress/contact frequencies and



telephones, handling the routine but ready to react to that Distress call from a boater in trouble.

For the period January to December 2023 our Communications Centre handled 248 marine incidents involving 608 persons on board these vessels.

These ranged from flare sightings, Search and Rescue Transponders beacons all up and down the east coast of Australia, through to flat batteries, fuel and engine issues.

They were also involved searches for missing aircraft pilots and swimmers as well as several Maydays with boats running aground into rocks and islands.

(continued page 11)

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Lachlan Holden
Assistant Agent
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Scarlett McInnes
Receptionist /
Trainee

OPERATIONS CONT'D

The Communications Centre was also involved numerous non Marine Incidents with calls from members of the public that were lost in the bush lands around Port Stephens, marine animals in distress, and many calls

relating to floating debris and missing marine markers around the port. All of these need to be passed on to the relevant authorities with the appropriate details to enable them to progress their response.

Marine Rescues motto is Volunteers saving lives on the water, and while we train to ensure we can provide the best possible response to these types of incidents we do provide support to many other organisations in non emergency type situations.

We regularly work with Air Force's Search and Rescue helicopter group to support their training, as well as Air Force pilot continuation training. We occasionally work with the Water Police, Ambulance, Maritime, National Parks and Wildlife, and RFS for their training and incident response.

We also assist with safety support operations to the numerous water sporting events in and around the port as well as providing a safety vessel around the fireworks activities in the port.

The Operations group is the pointy end of the Marine Rescue Port Stephens organisation, but without the support of the other groups at Port Stephens the Communications Centre and the Rescue Vessels would not be able to function.

The organisation is a collective with all parts working together to ensure the best possible response for the community.

Mick Duggan
Operations Officer



MARINE RESCUE NSW
Volunteers saving lives on the water

Volunteers saving lives on the water

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FACILITIES OFFICER

Preparing For Whale Disentanglement

It was an early start for 7 members of the Marine Rescue Port Stephens boat crew on Thursday 14 March. The task was to be at the dock at 7:15am to get both boats ready for the arrival of the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) Whale Disengagement team.

Should a whale be entangled in nets or ropes and need assistance, the NPWS whale disentanglement team will require Marine Rescue to take them and a small rubber ducky boat to the distressed whale and act as a support vessel.

Each year the team conducts training to refresh their skills at the start of the whale migration season.



The NPWS team joined Marine Rescue Port Stephens at their D'Albora Marina base to practice cutting ropes and buoys off a fake whale tail towed by Port Stephens 31 and the Shirley Clark PS30, using specialist tools.

The NPWS team was a mix of new trainees and experienced staff from north and south of Port Stephens. The 4 teams from NPWS took turns on each of the rubber dummies practicing a variety of techniques to free the whale.

During training, NPWS discussed that they needed favourable conditions to launch their small inflatable boats, approach the animal, assess the entanglement and the animal's condition, speed and behaviour.

During the exercises, the NPWS teams simulated assessing the best strategy to cut it free, which sometimes involves slowing the animal down by temporarily attaching buoys.

NPWS were very focused of safety and discussed that sometimes they could only deploy a transponder buoy to track the whale, for a later rescue attempt, in more favourable conditions.

The exercise finished mid afternoon and NPWS were very appreciative of Marine Rescue's support.

Anyone who sees a distressed or entangled whale should not attempt to free it but call NPWS on 13000PARKS (1300 072 757) or ORRCA on 02 9415 3333.

Grant Leddie
Facilities Officer



COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER

Marine Rescue Port Stephens have been contributing to the community in many ways over the busy summer holiday season. We tend to get the most visibility in our vital primary role of saving lives on the water. Like in February with the footage of our crews searching for a missing fisherman getting national TV coverage.

But we've also been busy helping feed the community with our new food truck. The food truck went to events around the bay including the game fish club event at D'Albora and the Australia Day festivities at Fly Point, where we also were delighted to announce the winner of our major fund raising raffle for the year.

(continued page 15)



Pictured: (above) Steve Scott from Umina, winner of the jetski raffle, being handed the keys by Frank Van Druten; (below) Nine News television coverage of Port Stephens crews searching for missing fishermen

If you are interested in becoming a Member please scan the QR Code to fill in our Expression of Interest online or Call our Communications Centre on 02 4981 3585.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS CONT'D

Our major prize was a jetski and the winning ticket holder was Steve Scott from Umina. Steve was not there on the day, so we arranged for him to come up to the bay in February and pickup his prize where we were delighted to hand over the keys and congratulate him. See below picture from Salamander Bay of the prize giving.

Whilst the jetski raffle created great interest and was well supported by the community and visitors alike, there has been some debate about the increased use of jetskis on our waterways this holiday season. We have decided, and are pleased to advise, that for our next major fundraising raffle we will source a new recreational cruising/fishing boat. So watch this space for further details as our plans progress.

Now for what's happening in the community going forward. In the next month we'll be hosting a Port Stephens Women In Business meeting. It's a great opportunity for any Port Stephens women in the business

community to meet with one another. Women who attend will learn about other businesses and network with their peers.

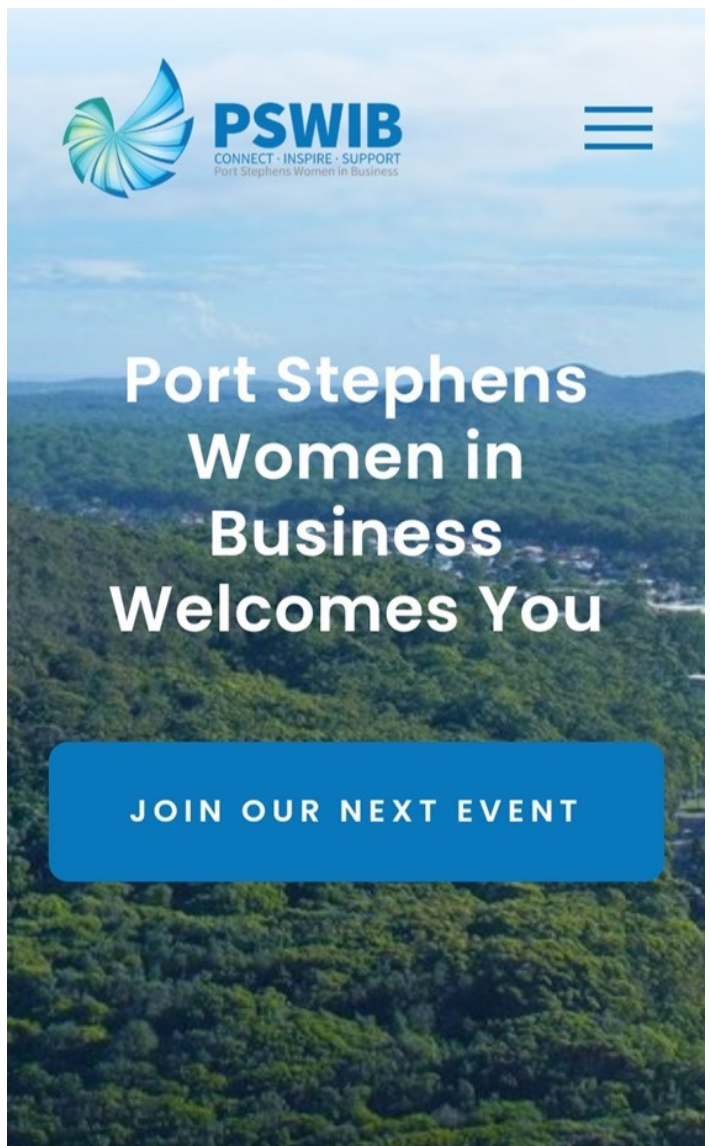
As Marine Rescue Port Stephens is hosting this event it's also an opportunity for interested women to hear from some of the Marine Rescue women. Our volunteers will be talking about their roles in our organisation including managing the gift shop, the wedding event management, our museum and our radio and boat operations.

The meeting will be held at our base at Nelson Head on Wednesday 27th March from 5 till 8 pm. If you're interested please contact Angela O'Dea on 0499 239 008

Frank van Druten
Community Relations Officer



Shirley Clark, one of the women of Marine Rescue Port Stephens, pictured here as she graces the cover of the Spring/Summer 2024 edition (Issue 54) of Soundings magazine.



Volunteers saving lives on the water

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THE WASHING MACHINE

Marine Rescue NSW Hunter Central Coast Inspector Steve Raymond is urging boaters to approach crossing bars with caution.

Conditions at bar crossings are notoriously changeable. From morning to afternoon they can easily shift from calm to dangerous depending on the wind and tide. The conditions you go out in may not be the same when you return, and many are surprised by how rough a bar crossing can get in a relatively short period of time.

“part of a bar at Port Stephens, it’s called the washing machine and it can get very rough in different conditions.”

Boaters looking to cross a bar should standoff, check the conditions and then decide whether it is safe to proceed. Inspector Raymond warned of “part of a bar at Port Stephens, it’s called the washing machine and it can get very rough in different conditions.”

He reminded boaters to assess conditions and prepare thoroughly before hitting the water. “Be prepared, look out for the weather and changes in the weather and make sure that your boat is ready to go,” Inspector Raymond said. Paddlers are especially vulnerable to minor changes in conditions.

“Any area off the coast conditions can change quickly especially with the northeasterly coming in during the afternoon and during summer with the southerly changes coming through, conditions can change very quickly and

you can find yourself getting caught out,” Inspector Raymond said.

Capsized vessels can lead to life-threatening emergencies.

Boaters and paddlers should always wear a lifejacket and are encouraged to Log On with Marine Rescue NSW via the Marine Rescue app or VHF Channel 16 every time they head out on the water.

“On our lakes and in our harbours the wind changes can happen very quickly and the conditions can change and worsen and you can be in great danger if you’re out there in those changing conditions,” Inspector Raymond said.



A RECORD YEAR

In 2023, the eight Marine Rescue NSW units located in the Hunter Central Coast region have completed 1,511 search and rescue missions, safely returning 3,079 people to shore. Locations of highest demand were Lake Macquarie, Port Stephens and the Central Coast.

Across the State, boat rescues were up 18 per cent, surpassing last year’s record figure. Marine Rescue NSW had its busiest year on record (4,786 search and rescue missions, safely returning 10,645 people to shore).

All six regions with Marine Rescue NSW units had a record number of rescues in 2023, including the Northern Rivers, Mid North Coast, Hunter/Central Coast, Greater Sydney, Illawarra and Monaro.

More than 80,000 trips were logged with Marine Rescue NSW in 2023, almost 16,500 more than the previous year. And radio operators took 258,742 radio calls – or a call every two minutes.

More than half the incidents in 2023 could potentially have been avoided with better boat maintenance, with 57 per cent of calls for mechanical, battery or fuel issues.

Almost a third of incidents last year were emergencies such as capsized boats, missing people, groundings and fires on vessels.

Over the past 12 months there has been an increase of 16,500 boaters using Marine Rescue’s free Log On service with more than 80,000 trips logged last year.

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RESCUES



On Saturday 13 January, in the late afternoon, radio operators received a call to assist a flybridge cruiser approximately 2.5 nautical miles south east of Fingal Light that was stranded with an engine issue. The position of the stranded vessel was plotted on a chart. The disabled vessel had drifted some way from the original reported position to where it was located by PS31 during the rescue.

Obtaining a good position fix is one of the first critical pieces of information requested by operators. It makes the job much easier (and quicker) when the crew on the rescue vessel do not have to spend time searching for the stranded vessel.



Thursday 28 December PS31 was tasked by Marine Area Command to assist a vessel at Seal Rocks. The vessel had steering failure, could not make way, and had set off distress flares. Another vessel in the area was able to tow the disabled vessel to North Rock at Broughton Island.

There PS31 took over and towed the vessel back to Lemon Tree Passage ramp with all people on board safe and happy to be back from their ordeal.

On Tuesday 26 December a vessel had been transporting a party of six from Little Beach to Jimmies Beach when an engine failure brought everything to a stop. Port Stephens rescue vessel PS30 was quickly despatched with crew to assist. Once at the scene, the stranded people were brought onboard PS30. A tow was then established for the disabled vessel.



On Saturday 30 December two different jet skis required assistance at the same time. One of them had 3 unsupervised children onboard and was given priority. The crew of PS30 delivered both jet skis safely back to Little Beach while PS31 assisted an open runabout with suspected fuel issues and an 11m sail mono grounded on a sand bar at Middle Channel.



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- Store your lifejacket in a dry place, out of sunlight and away from heat.
- Visually check your lifejacket after use and before storing again.
- Make sure that the place you store your lifejacket can be easily accessed at all times. If you have assessed that it's not necessary to wear a lifejacket in a given situation, ensure your lifejacket can easily be reached in an emergency.

Never take short-cuts on servicing or skip your lifejacket maintenance checks. Keep proper records of what maintenance has been done. This allows you to track when they are next due for servicing or self-checks and helps to ensure your safety.

Develop a maintenance schedule for your lifejackets, along with all your other safety equipment.

It's important to maintain your lifejacket according to the manufacturer's instructions so it works when you need it.

Source: Australian Maritime Safety Authority

ARE YOU PREPARED?



406MHZ
DISTRESS
BEACON



BILGE PUMP



BATTERY OPERATED TORCH



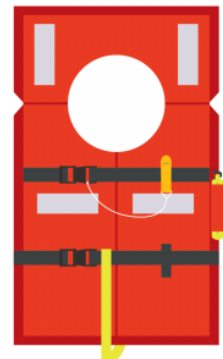
COMPASS



RADAR
REFLECTOR



SOUND
SIGNAL



LIFEJACKETS



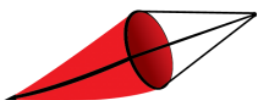
FLARES



MARINE RADIO



INFLATABLE LIFE RAFT



SEA ANCHOR



FIRST AID KIT



INTERNATIONAL
CODE FLAGS



LIFE BUOY
WITH LIGHT &
SMOKE SIGNAL



BAILING
BUCKET



FIRE
EXTINGUISHER

TAYLOR SWIFT FEVER

As the nation was gripped with Taylor Swift fever during the Australian leg of her world tour, Marine Rescue NSW cleverly leaned into the friendship bracelet trend to deliver an important message.

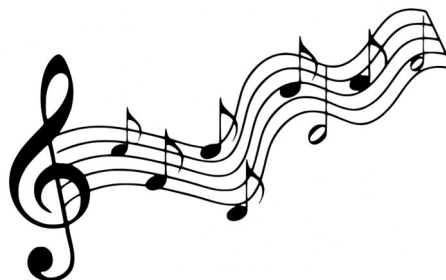
Pictured: (right) Marine Rescue NSW makes some friendship bracelets; (below) Some standard Taylor Swift fan friendship bracelets, exchanged among strangers at her concerts.



Taylor Swift fans, or “Swifties” as they are commonly known, are considered to be some of the most passionate fans in the world today. It is no surprise that one fan has done a lyrical analysis to see how frequently Ms Swift refers to marine topics. There is compelling evidence that Ms Swift would be an advocate for saving lives on the water.

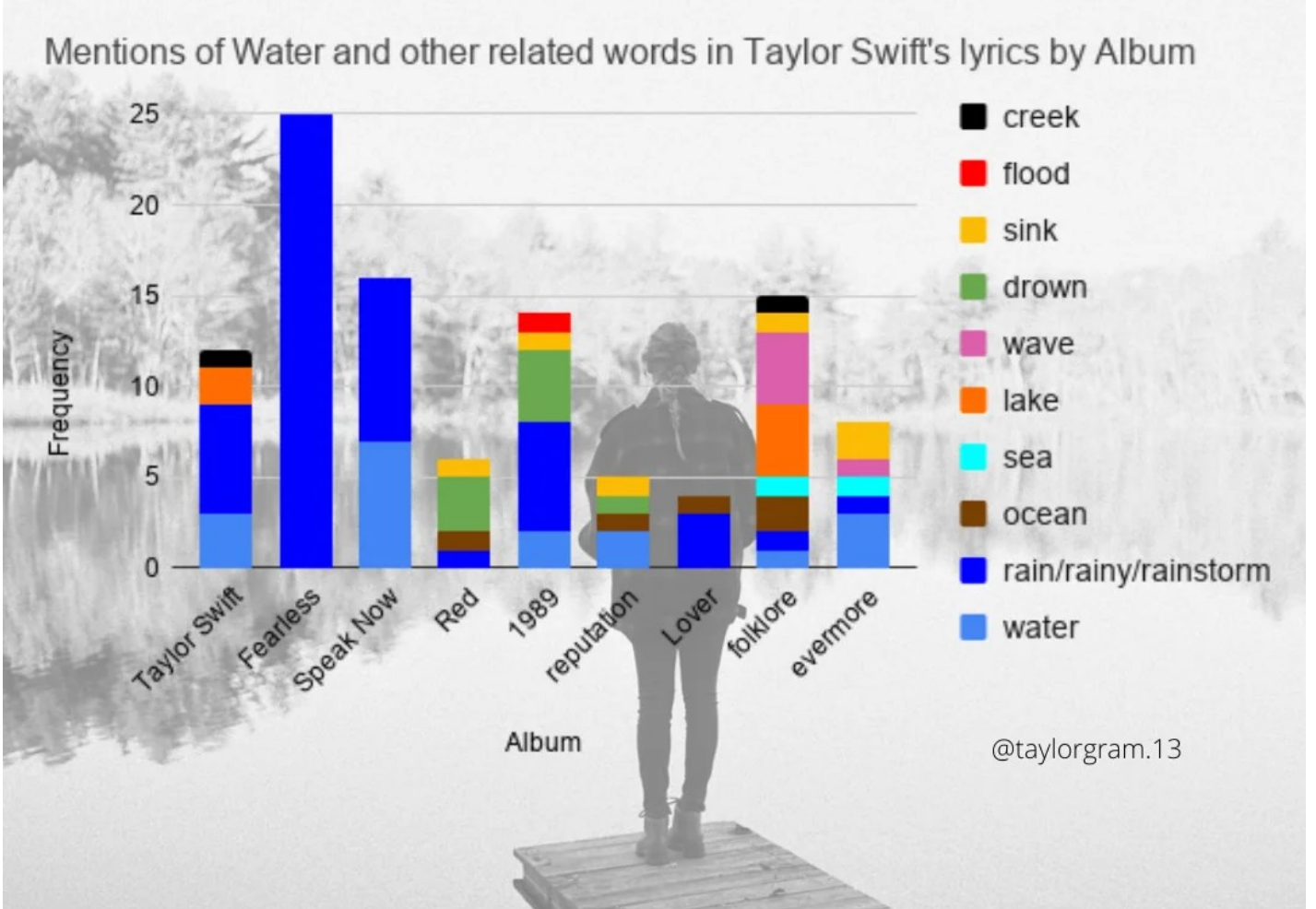
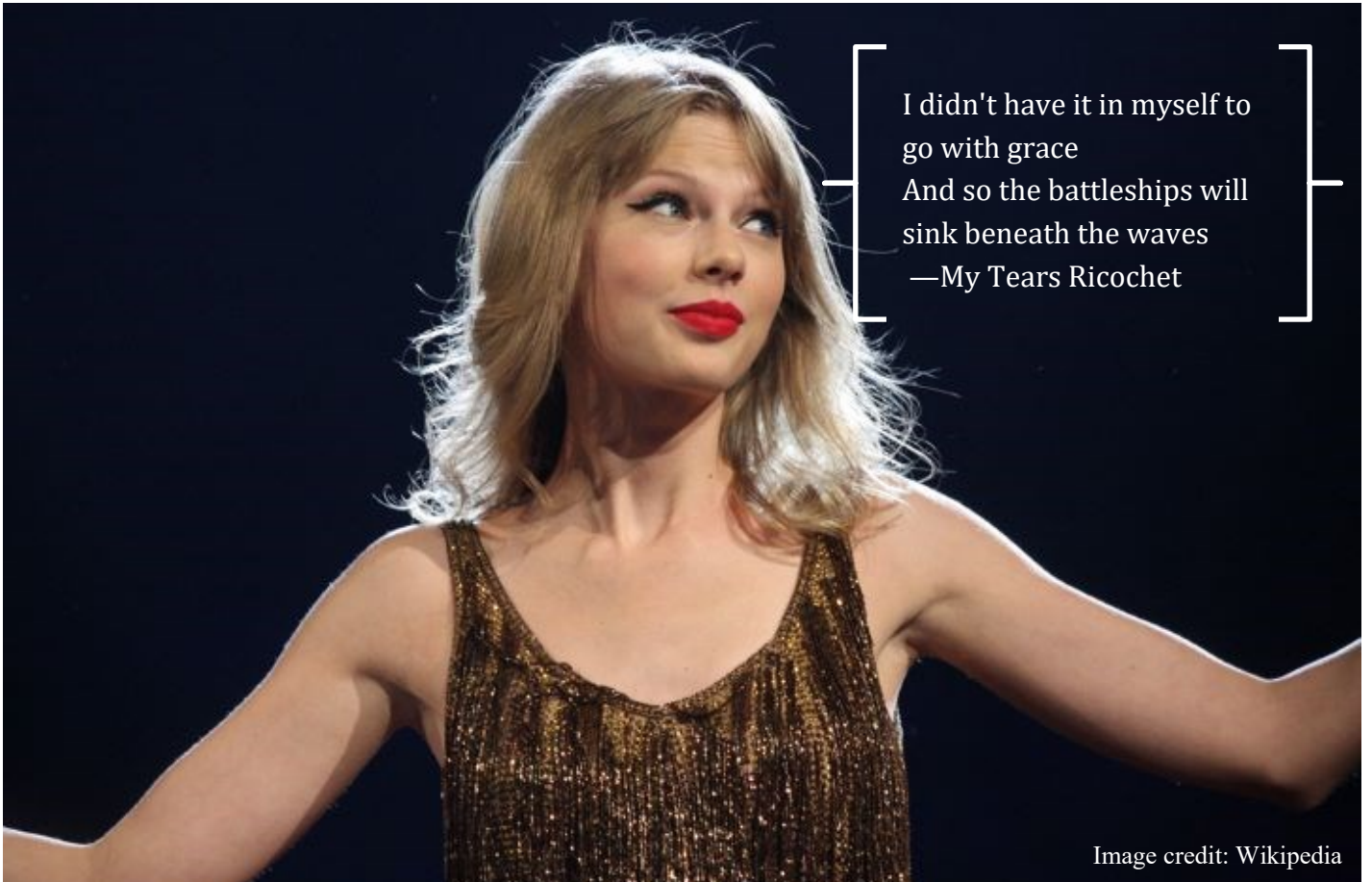
Gleaming, twinkling
Eyes like sinking ships
On waters so inviting
I almost jump in
—Gold Rush

I just keep you warm
And my waves meet your shore
... Pushed from the precipice
Climbed right back up the cliff



I'd give you my sunshine, give you my best
But the rain is always gonna come if you're standin' with me
But I'm a fire and I'll keep your brittle heart warm
If your cascade, ocean wave blues come
—Peace

TAYLOR SWIFT FEVER CONT'D



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, Mick Duggan, Di Ballie, Frank Van Druten, Grant Leddie, Morgan Bell, MRPS Facebook, Steve Raymond.

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 and Marian Chappell.

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Please show your appreciation by giving them your custom.

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	Pools	Adept Pools
Health	Chemists	Salamander Centre Pharmacy
		Terry White Chemart Pharmacy, Nelson Bay
	Eye Care	Specsavers
Funeral Services		France Family Funerals
Maritime	Marina	Soldiers Point Marina
	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



MARINE RESCUE NSW
Volunteers saving lives on the water

A job for everyone

Our volunteers bring different interests and experience to Marine Rescue NSW. And there's always a job to be done.

You can become a crew member on a high-speed rescue mission. Be the voice on the radio to reassure a boater in trouble that help is on the way. Join our skilled support team, helping with fundraising, administration or keeping people well fed.

We have a place just for you.

For details on joining MRNSW, visit
marinerescuensw.com.au/become-a-volunteer

