



# CENTACO NEWS

For Members & Friends of  
Marine Rescue Brisbane Water



## From Unit Commander, Ian Morrow ESM:

I was saddened to receive Andrew's decision to step down as DUC Admin. Andrew has served the Unit in this capacity with diligence and aplomb. In saying that, he is a lot more relaxed without the stress associated with aspects of the position. Thanks for everything you have done Andrew, for the Unit and for me. I welcome his replacement, **Tony Long** who will fill these boots admirably. I also welcome back **Geoff Hawes** who has been a valued member of the Unit for many years until he resigned a few years ago due to work commitments. Geoff will take over the membership role from Tony, and **David Wicks** will take on the role of Fundraiser.

Radio room members will notice that the radio room has been reconfigured with wider benches and now three stations across, and thanks to **Pete** and **Chris** who enabled the reconfig.

Members may notice member **Daryl Fuller** pottering around the yard doing maintenance; mowing, weeding, tidying, etc. He has become our ground maintenance officer. This is a purely auxiliary role, so say "Hi" if you see him doing his thing.

As we move towards Christmas you may have noticed that the number of assists has increased dramatically. I can't remember a time when operations increased so suddenly and not being necessarily on weekend watches. It is a credit to all operational members who have handled the radios and vessels.



## October/November 2025

We have our usual array of holiday obligations with vessels taking an active role in the Sydney to Hobart and New Years Eve patrols. We will be seeking vessel operators to man a vessel for these events, so if you haven't already participated, it is a wonderful opportunity to get close up and personal. Also five members have volunteered to help out with the Hawkesbury River Canoe Classic this year.



Maintenance work and improvements continue to be carried out around the premises so keep in mind that we are taking steps to keep the new base safe and practical for the benefit of all. Many tasks still need completion, however I am amazed at the difference between what we had just over a year ago and where we are now.

As this is the last news letter for 2025 (where has it gone), I extend my best wishes for Christmas and New Year to you and your families and thank you all for your efforts for 2025. I hope to see you all at the Christmas Party.

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or VHF Ch 16



## Deputy Unit Commander (Admin)

Report by Tony Long



## Deputy Unit Commander (Operation)

Report by Ian Radford



Hello all

First and foremost a big thank you to outgoing DUCA **Andrew McKellar** for his stellar contribution in the role of DUC. Andrew has worked tirelessly for a number of years and he has always placed service before self.

I circulated an email recently highlighting my early intentions to address back up roles and positions in the area of Admin, finance and membership as well as my intent to work with the broader executive in seeking alternate sources of funding to ensure we can maintain our operational and training responses on Brisbane Water. I have asked for volunteers and feedback from all members who I know have networks of families, friends and business contacts who can assist us in moving forward. Responses so far have been slow and I thank the TWO members for taking the time to respond.

We have commenced seeking quotes for the base memorial and I am hoping we can stand up this project asap as it is an important part of the history of Marine Rescue and an acknowledgment of those members served with distinction.



I have also had some discussions with the UC regarding the management of the Gosford Wharf and the difficulties that have been encountered in progressing outcomes with CC Council.

With the busy season upon us, I wish you all the best and thank you in advance for what you do for MRBW and the broader CC Community.

Cheers, Longy

After settling into our new building, the Operations team continue to assess how we can improve the service to our boating public.

We have improved the layout of the Radio Room by providing wider benches and are in the process of updating our VHF radio equipment which is our main point of contact with our boating public.

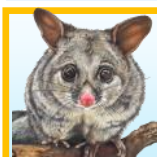
Contact with our Rescue Vessels has relied on an aging private radio system ('DCN') which has many black spots. Marine Rescue NSW is in the process of implementing a new digital network (Public Safety Network, 'PSN') across the State. This should dramatically improve contact with our vessels.

A lot of work goes into the constant upgrading of our systems, paperwork and procedures. We also look at our physical structures which provide storage and assist with maintaining our vessels



- \* our boat hoists have been upgraded,
- \* buffering has been installed to reduce damage to vessels when entering their storage pen, with more to come
- \* our aim is to store our RWCs on our third boat hoist rather than on a trailer in the shed. This should dramatically improve their emergency response times. However, this cannot be done 'overnight'.
- \* The slipway should be upgraded in the new year which will make it easier to service our vessels.

As we head into the busiest time of the year, I would like to thank the team for their continued support which is vital if we are to provide the best possible service.



Did you hear about the guy arrested at the zoo for measuring possums?

They got him for critter-sizing



## Thanks to our Major Supporters







## Training Report by Bob Gilbody



Currently Training is conducting theory and practical mid-week with **Paul Broad** and **Suzanne Portefaix** conducting Radio on Friday mornings, **Max Landells** and **Neville Shakeshaft** conducting Crew practical on Wednesday morning and **Ian Morrow** and **Steven Constantine** conducting Crew theory on Wednesday evening.



Sunday mornings are put aside 0900hrs to 1200hrs for training being Crew on Gold and Red Watches with Radio on Blue and Green Watches. All trainees and rated radio operators are invited to attend any of these sessions but must notify the appropriate training officers before attending - they are not a walk in off the-street situation, sessions must be booked in.

It is highly recommended that trainees attend extra sessions to enhance their training and assessment at an earlier opportunity. Thank you to all the staff who are putting in extra time to achieve these outcomes.

We had two operational assessments during the period with congratulations going to **David Humphries**, the first of his large intake, to be assessed and deemed competent as Crew and **David Lowe** being deemed competent as Coxswain Restricted. Very well done to both members and credit not only to them but their trainers.



Transport for NSW Maritime will be running the Expired Marine Flare Collection Program at key boating locations across the Central Coast. The program provides the opportunity for the public to dispose of their expired flares safely.

Collection points will be at **The Entrance North Boat Ramp**, **Gosford Main Boat Ramp**, and **Lions Park Western Boat Ramp** Woy Woy.



## For the cost of your weekly coffee, Marine Rescue Brisbane Water can help cover

- \* Vessel operating costs - inc. fuel, repairs, servicing and maintenance.
- \* Base operating costs - inc. overheads, equipment replacement, community outreach programmes.
- \* Training costs - inc. vessel operations, radio, first aid and resuscitation, fire and sea survival.

### Introducing Marine Rescue Brisbane Water Foundation Partners:







## Infrastructure Report by Peter Alderton



We have finally received the new desks for the Radio room. Yay!

We now have three operator's desks at the front windows which should make communication between operators much easier.

The printer and the back up radios have now been moved to the right (starboard) side of the room to the relocated old desks. This has enabled us to have room for all three operators.

We continue to have issues getting the Reditalk computers set up in a consistent manner (ie. all set up with the same channels). There were some licencing issues which are in the process of being resolved.

As discussed in a previous mess meeting we are organising for the two left (port) side stations to be set up with microphones and the remaining station on the right (starboard) side to have a Bluetooth headset.

This will allow those who prefer to use a headset to do so and allow Watch officers to be mobile in the Radio room while also monitoring radio traffic. Exact details of how this will work will be available once Karera visits us to complete the work. Hopefully soon.

The new computers continue to be rolled out as I set them up.



## Rescue Water Craft Report by Mitch Giles



I would like to thank all of our RWC operators for getting their marine drills done in a very timely manner.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Regan for all of his efforts he has put into training before taking a well earned break.

We have three members that have been enrolled into the RWC program, just waiting for some guidance from head office on how we can proceed with their training.

The professional development day that was planned for the 29th of November with Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie has been postponed until the new year, at this stage we're looking at either February or March.



## A PICTURE IS WORTH 1,000 WORDS.

PLEASE TAKE SOME AND SEND TO ME SO WE CAN USE ON FACEBOOK AND PUBLISH IN THE NEWSLETTER!



## Fund Raising Report by David Wicks



Thanks to everyone for making themselves available to help with the flurry of fundraising we're currently seeing. It's always a busy time with the 4-days-a-week Christmas Raffle, Bunnings BBQs (some with less than a week's notice), our involvement with the Putt Putt Regatta and Oyster Festival, not to mention the weekly Meat Tray raffles at The Ettalong.



Our best return ratio for people-power investment at present seems to be the Ettalong Friday night raffles with some weeks giving us a profit of over \$1,000 - that's great with just 4 people over 2-3 hours encouraging people to part with their hard earned cash. Keep it up and keep it fun!



The Christmas raffle seems unlikely to hit the heights we did last year, which means we've got to try just that little bit harder at the venues we've been given. Smile, be friendly, engage in conversation with the punters who show interest and SELL UP the number of tix they're buying. You're there to sell the tix - it's not a members' social gathering.

The current fundraising roster from this weekend until the end of January is listed on page 5. Please take a look and it would be a huge help if you could put your name down for two or three events - talk with your watch leader for more details.

The fundraising side of your Marine Rescue life is paramount to our ongoing success and is the most important aspect to keeping us afloat. We can all take a breather at the end of January!



Plastic surgeons are the only people that actually encourage you to pick your nose.

## Thanks to our Major Supporters



# DATES TO REMEMBER



## TRAINING:

Upcoming training sessions are:

▮ NSW Boat Licence 6 December

▮ First Aid and Advanced Resuscitation Courses for 2026 are on the notice board at the base.

Any member wishing to attend any of these courses can register on the MR Training Calendar.



## FUNDRAISING EVENTS:

Fri Nov 7: **Meat Tray Raffles @ The Ettalong - Gold Watch**  
 Nov 7 to 8: **ANNUAL XMAS RAFFLE** Bunnings W Gosford - *Blue W*  
 Sun Nov 9: **BRISBANE WATER OYSTER FESTIVAL**  
 Nov 13 to 14: **ANNUAL XMAS RAFFLE** Kincumber Village - *Green W*  
 Fri Nov 14: **Meat Tray Raffles @ The Ettalong - Red Watch**  
 Nov 15 to 16: **ANNUAL XMAS RAFFLE** Bunnings W Gosford - *Green*  
 Nov 20 to 21: **ANNUAL XMAS RAFFLE** West Gosford Shops - *Gold W*  
 Fri Nov 21: **Meat Tray Raffles @ The Ettalong - Blue Watch**  
 Nov 22 to 23: **ANNUAL XMAS RAFFLE** Bunnings W Gosford - *Gold W*  
 Sat Nov 22: **UNIT CHRISTMAS PARTY @ the Base**  
 Nov 27 to 28: **ANNUAL XMAS RAFFLE** TBA - *Red W*  
 Nov 29 to 30: **ANNUAL XMAS RAFFLE** Bunnings W Gosford - *Red W*  
 Fri Nov 28: **Meat Tray Raffles @ The Ettalong - Green Watch**  
 Sun Nov 30 - 3pm at the Base - **Drawing of Christmas Raffle**  
 Fri Dec 5: **Meat Tray Raffles @ The Ettalong - Gold Watch**  
 Fri Dec 12: **Xmas Ham Raffles @ The Ettalong - Red Watch**  
 Sat Dec 13: **BUNNINGS BBQ** (West Gosford)  
 Fri Dec 19: **Xmas Ham Raffles @ The Ettalong - Blue Watch**  
 Fri Dec 26: **Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race – BW22**  
 Sat Dec 27: **BUNNINGS BBQ** (West Gosford)  
 Dec 31: **New Year's Eve Sydney Harbour – BW21**  
 Fri Jan 2: **Meat Tray Raffles @ The Ettalong - Gold Watch**  
 Fri Jan 9: **Meat Tray Raffles @ The Ettalong - Red Watch**  
 Fri Jan 16:: **Meat Tray Raffles @ The Ettalong**  
 Fri Jan 23: **Meat Tray Raffles @ The Ettalong**  
 Mon Jan 26: **BUNNINGS BBQ** (West Gosford)



SEPTEMBER



ROB MURRAY



OCTOBER



JANE & RAYMOND LEWIS

Happy Birthday

## NOVEMBER

6: Alan Hargreaves & Rob Landis 7: Mal Ralston  
 12: Daniel Fedson 15: Tony Thomas 17: Col Thomson  
 19: Nik Banjevic 24: Phil Page, Ken Langbridge & Celeste Williams 26: Tony Giorgio

## DECEMBER

4: Ev McNeill 5: David Conyngham, 6: Andrew McKellar  
 8: Michael White 9: Steven Constantine 24: Glenn Chapman  
 25: Alexander Constantine



## Thanks to our Major Supporters







# Watch REPORTS



## GREEN WATCH: September 6 & 7, 2025

Saturday. BW21 tasked to tow Tinnie from Veterans Wharf to Blackwall Ramp, then tasked to assist jet ski from Ettalong Beach to Wagstaff.

Sunday No Jobs. Training undertaken on entering waypoints. Lawns mowed. BW10 and 11 deployed to undertake patrol. Vessels refuelled.

*Pete Alderton*

## GREEN WATCH: October 4 & 5, 2025

Training with man overboard / PIW dummy undertaken. One job towing tinny from Woy Woy to Davistown.

*Pete Alderton*

## GREEN WATCH: November 1 & 2, 2025

Quiet weekend which gave us plenty of time to undertake necessary training. Two new members, both Radio operators had some experience on the vessels and in depth training on Radio.

*Pete Alderton*

## GET YOUR UPDATED GUIDE TO BRISBANE WATER

Get your updated 2025 edition of our Guide to Brisbane Water, made possible by our Business Partner (and friend of MRBW), Dean Teni at DMT Marine Constructions.

Available now from BCF (West Gosford & Erina Fair), Anaconda Gosford and independent outlets.



My friend admitted he was terrified of elevators. I told him it's time he started taking steps to avoid them.

## GOLD WATCH: September 13 & 14, 2025

Saturday. Jet ski broken down at Dalys Point. As both RWCs (BW10 and BW11) were in the vicinity they were tasked to assess the situation and provide initial assessment and assistance. BW 21 was tasked to provide a tow to Green Point. Completed without incident. At about 2pm we had a report from a runabout near Spike Milligan Bridge that has run out of fuel. BW22 attended and assisted vessel back to Koolewong. At 1440 a vessel lost it's propeller and stuck on a sand bank off Lions Park with 7 on board. DV had requested that he be towed to Woy Woy wharf. After 2 attempts we were unable to move the vessel from the sandbank. 3 POB were transported via their dingy to Woy Woy wharf. Then 4 more were transferred by WC to BW21 and then transported to Woy Woy wharf.

Sunday. BW21 inspected the grounded vessel which is now higher on the sand bank with a slight lean to starboard, and was then tasked to a job north of the rip bridge which was a 17 foot runabout with no propulsion and required towing to Gosford boat ramp. BW22 was returning from a patrol with the jet skis to the Kincumber broad water when they were tasked to a jet ski that had broken down at Saratoga which also need to be towed to Gosford ramp. BW21 was refuelled at approximately 14.25 and continued with training. No assists were reported from Terrigal.

*Brendon Weston*

## GOLD WATCH: October 11 & 12, 2025

Saturday base opened by **Nik Banjevic** and **Dave Mead**. First job was to plot the position of a misplaced Starboard marker near Half Tide Rocks. This successfully accomplished by **Mal Sinclair** on BW22. Morning spent training Cox and CoxR on charting, LKP and search patterns. After lunch BW21 dispatched to open sea to plot and carry out search patterns off Box Head. During the exercise they were tasked to do a tow from Terrigal to Lions Park. Which was thankfully called off. Unfortunately two PLBs on board were accidentally activated which gave skipper and crew cause for concern and activity

Sunday: Training exercises were planned for BW22, BW21 and RWC and in transit BW21 and RWC were flagged down by a 5 metre Cuddy cabin in distress near Half Tide requiring a tow to Lintern channel. Upon arrival at the ramp it was observed that there was shallow water so the RWC took control and took the DV to safety. In the afternoon all vessels were dispatched in further training exercises. BW 22 was dispatched to assist a 4.5 m runabout in distress, delivered safely to Lions Park. Late afternoon a storm arrived and there were two people separately in the water from the yacht races. The first was retrieved by the start boats however the second was only supported in the water by yacht crew and BW21 was dispatched to assist, they duly retrieved the PIW and delivered them safely to Gosford Yacht Club.

*Brendon Weston*





# Watch REPORTS



## MID WEEK WATCH: Sept - October 2025

Firstly, I'd like to congratulate **Bec McNeill** (right) on obtaining her MRRO rating. Bec is the first of her intake to sit her Radio Operator assessment and others are following closely behind.



Once again a big thank you to all those who have answered the call to help plug the gaps in the roster, most of which have been caused by members having long term health issues, with a couple being from members enjoying a holiday. With this in mind though, please keep an eye on the roster and messages asking for replacements and put your hand up to assist if possible. If you're unable to, remember that Training is still happening every Friday morning in person from 0900. This is an opportunity for not only trainees to progress through their skills log and LAW book, but also it's an opportunity for regular members to bring themselves up to date or improve their skills. This information has been given at Unit meetings on a regular basis.

With this in mind, please check SOPS in particular and LOPs to check for any updates whenever you are on duty in the radio room.

*Sally Allen*



The Swordfish has no natural predators...

Except the Pen-fish, which is supposed to be even mightier.

## AROUND THE BASES: Sept - October 2025



### TERRIGAL

Big thanks go out to our Patron Mr Adam Crouch MP for presenting Marine Rescue Terrigal with a \$31,000 grant to go towards the purchase of a new vehicle for the Terrigal base.



### LAKE MAC

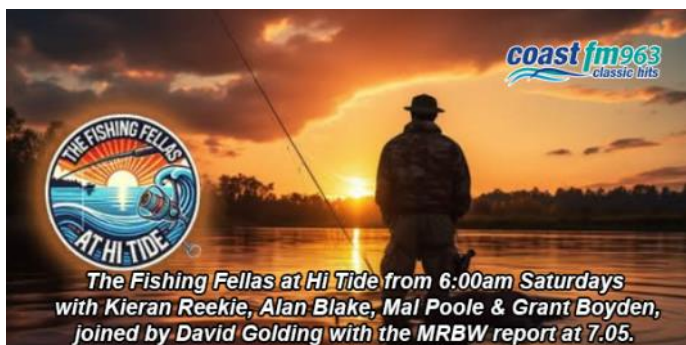


Lake Macquarie hosted the 2025 Offshore Superboat Championships with perfect weather and excellent conditions in October. Lake Mac MR were involved by ensuring that all of the safety vessel operators are on the same page for the crowd pleasing events.



### NEWCASTLE

MR Newcastle hosted an introductory 'fire fighting' course to give new and current members a valuable insight into how to react and assist fighting a fire onboard a rescue vessel, disabled vessel or at their unit.



## Thanks to our Major Supporters







# Watch REPORTS



## RED WATCH: September 20 & 21, 2025

Another beautiful weekend with lots of boats out but no assists.

On the Saturday we had the annual Operational Readiness Inspections for all our vessels and the Base, passed with flying colours.

On the Sunday we kicked off early running overlapping scenarios. The first being for an overdue/missing vessel with 2 POB and after an extensive search the vessel wasn't located. The second being a sighting from a MOP of a Person in the Water in distress (possibly fallen overboard from the missing vessel and having been run-over with a major head wound), expertly patched-up before going into cardiac arrest before being transported to Koolewong wharf for hand-over to the paramedics. Invaluable training for our Radio/Watch Officers, Coxswain's & Crew. We believe the patient is expected to make a full recovery. The rest of Sunday continued with radio and vessel training.

*Alan Harvey*

## RED WATCH: October 18 & 19, 2025

The weekend started off relatively quietly with no assists on the Saturday so we got lots of time for crew and radio training, including two practice RO assessments to identify any gaps in their skills and knowledge

Sunday kicked off with three new crew recruits taking them through vessel inductions and marine drills with our first call coming in around 1000hrs with a 8 -10m Cruiser requiring assistance midway between Point Frederick and Saratoga with a tow to a mooring at Green Point. That was followed shortly thereafter to assist an open runabout at the Rip Bridge requiring assistance and a tow to Lions Park.

We had a visit Sunday morning from **Malcolm Poole** from Coast FM assessing **Joanne Lowth's** suitability to fill in on the Saturday AM *Fishing Fella's* while **David Golding** takes a short break. I think David might be out of a job!

Our numbers were a little down with some away and others helping out at the Putt Putt Regatta, then some, ferrying some extra crew and supplies over to Davistown.

We then had a quite period until 1500hrs with another runabout with engine trouble at Blackwall requiring a tow to Lions Park. Whilst assisting that vessel a call came in for a 30ft timber cruiser with engine trouble near Estella Ave at Davistown, being a casualty from the Putt Putt Regatta. This turned out to be the trickiest assist of the day being a big heavy vessel in amongst moorings at the bottom of the tide in breezy conditions wanting to go to a pole mooring in Lintern Channel, then wanting to be swung around 180 degrees between the poles.

*Alan Harvey*

## BLUE WATCH: September 27 & 28, 2025

No report received

## BLUE WATCH: October 25 & 26, 2025

Busy Saturday morning with a tinnie breakdown in Terrigal followed by a yacht aground near Rip Bridge. Unable to pull off but eventually floated due to rising tide.

A call from a cruiser at lunch took BW21 to Lobster beach with a tow to Booker Bay.

No further assists on Saturday afternoon with BW21 and BW22 training for **Ryan Marriot's** crew assessment next watch.

Boats opened and cleaned Sunday morning followed by more training for our three crew trainees before lunch.

No assists in the afternoon, both boats on the water with more training.

*Garry Owens*



I went to the doctor with hearing problems.  
He asked if I could describe the symptoms.  
I said: "Homer's a fat bloke and Marge has blue hair."







# MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room

## LONG WEEKEND KICKSTARTS BOATING SEASON



Central Coast waterways were utilised to their full advantage by boaters keen to enjoy the perfect October long weekend weather, that, unfortunately, put demands on the resources and volunteers at Marine Rescue Brisbane Water.

Marine Rescue volunteers at Brisbane Water and Broken Bay were called to the assistance of a 5 metre open runabout experiencing engine problems. The distressed vessel with two adults on board had travelled to Pittwater but found itself in difficulties when the boat's engine failed.

Volunteers from MRBB were called to locate the boat east of Barrenjoey Lighthouse and tow the craft to Half Tide rocks, where MRBW's BW 22 was waiting to continue the tow to Koolewong boat ramp.

A Kellyville skipper with six adults and three children aboard his 22' bow rider out for a cruise developed engine troubles just south of the Rip Bridge and called for help. BW 21 located the distressed vessel and towed it back to Gosford boat ramp.

Meanwhile, a 30' cabin cruiser suffered engine failure on Brisbane Water and called for assistance. Marine Rescue's team of qualified volunteers secured the vessel and towed it from Paddys Channel to Koolewong Marina.

In other incidents, one adult and three children in a 5 metre Haines runabout requested assistance after their battery went flat near Point Frederick, seeking a tow to Gosford Boat Ramp.

Engine difficulties caused problems for three young people in a tinny at Booker Bay who put the word out they needed a tow to Lions Park, Woy Woy. Volunteers from Marine Rescue Brisbane Water



gave the youngsters the help needed by BW 21, assisted by RWC BW 10 and BW 11..

A planned outing for a 10 metre motor cruiser with a recently repaired engine came to an impromptu finish when the engine failed moments after the boat was launched near Koolewong Marina. The owner requested a tow back into the marina and, no doubt, will be having an earnest conversation with the repairman.

Meanwhile, an unmanned 2.5 metre runabout was reported sighted near the 35 metre mark south of Maitland Bay. Four Marine Rescue Brisbane Water volunteers crewed BW 21 and extensively searched the area, to no avail. Advice was received there was a similar craft reported drifting in Waterfall Bay the night before. Unfortunately, neither vessel could be found, and MRBW issued a securite about the possible navigation hazard before returning to base.

In an unrelated incident, a concerned member of the public contacted Marine Rescue to report a drifting yellow kayak about 100 metres off Ettalong Beach.

After diligent enquiries, it was found the owner of the kayak had been trying to get back into the craft without success. He had abandoned it and went home.

A spokesperson for Marine Rescue Brisbane Water appealed to all boat owners to ensure their vessel is serviced before taking the craft out on the water.

"Make sure your boat is shipshape with enough fuel onboard to get you there and back, all passengers wear lifejackets and, most importantly, log on and off with your local Marine Rescue unit," he said. Marine Rescue - volunteers saving lives on the water.

*Pics: Pete Alderton*

## Thanks to our Major Supporters



**Bendigo Bank**



**GOSFORD RSL**



**Jemena**



**coast fm96.3**  
classic hits



**DMT**  
MARINE CONSTRUCTIONS



## UNIT MOVERS 'n' SHAKERS



Congratulations to these achievers:

**MRRO Chris Thomas**

**CREW David Humphries, Chris Thomas**

**COXSWAIN RESTRICTED David Lowe, Michael Kerr and David Jesaveluk**



Marine Rescue Brisbane Water NSW ran an Coxn R assessment for one of its Red Watch members. The sun shone not only on the water but on him too. Many thanks to Murray from Port Stephens for driving down to assess the operation.

Well done, all movers 'n' shakers.

*Pics: Chrissie Lowe*

## PORT MAC VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE NATIONAL COMMENDATION



The courage and professionalism of Marine Rescue Port Macquarie volunteers have been recognised on the national stage, with the unit receiving the Professional Volunteer Commendation at the Australian Search and Rescue Awards, held at Queensland Parliament House in October.

Ten Marine Rescue Port Macquarie volunteers (Alison Cameron-Brown, Robert Breskal, Robert Britten, Leonard Smart, Ron Caffyn, Chris Wood, Noel Woodward, Dustin Welbourne, Lilly De Belle and Grant James) were honoured for their exceptional teamwork during a perilous three-hour rescue on the Hastings River Bar earlier this year.

It was mid-morning on 14 May when a 15-metre motor cruiser with one person on board suffered complete mechanical failure while attempting to cross the notorious Hastings River Bar. The skipper deployed an anchor to stop the vessel drifting onto nearby rocks, but soon found himself stranded on one of the bar's most hazardous sections.

MRPM's vessel PM 30 was conducting a training exercise nearby when a distress call came through. The crew of PM 30 made four attempts before securing a tow line, but when the cruiser's anchor could not be retrieved, they were forced to release the line to avoid placing the rescue vessel in danger.

As the cruiser's anchor began to drag, it moved into an even more hazardous position. Assessing the danger, the rescue crew devised an unconventional but effective plan. They transferred large bolt cutters to the stranded vessel via a heaving line, allowing the skipper to sever the anchor chain. Once freed, the cruiser drifted safely out of the bar's breaking zone.

Second rescue vessel, PM 21, soon arrived to assist. A Marine Rescue NSW crew member boarded the cruiser and managed to restart one of its engines. With a high degree of difficulty, a towline was successfully established. The weight of the cruiser was a concern but PM 30 carefully towed the vessel across the bar and guided it safely to the marina with PM 21 in support.

Unit Commander Greg Davies ESM said the team from the radio base and both rescue vessels did an extraordinary job that day. "If it hadn't been for their quick thinking and calmness under pressure, we would almost certainly have seen lives lost."





# MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room



## VALE: HARRY SCALES



Long serving member of Marine Rescue, Harry Scales passed away suddenly on October 30.

Harry joined Marine Rescue in January 2015. He served at Terrigal and Point Clare. He and Lynne played a vital role in our fund-raising efforts, visiting local

businesses to press the flesh for raffle prizes. Harry also was a valuable member of the RFS over many years.

We miss you already and share the grief of his family at this sad time. RIP Harry.

## HEATH RETURNED UNOPPOSED

Robin Heath will be reappointed as Marine Rescue Hunter Central Coast Regional Director for another two-year term at the November 22, 2025 AGM.

Robin joined Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie in 2021 and in early 2023 gained the rating of Coxswain.



He is a retired Marine Pilot with over 40 years' experience in the maritime domain in Canada and Australia.

He currently sits on the Board of the Canadian Coast Guard College Alumni and was the technical advisor to the Sydney Pilot Service Board.

Captain Heath brings a wealth of skills, knowledge and experience to the Board and looks forward to making a greater contribution to the strategic objectives of Marine Rescue NSW.



## Volunteer Profile

Locke Englund volunteers with Marine Rescue Terrigal and was recently featured in the Marine Business News. We've condensed the article for this profile.

"I am a trainee crew member, almost qualified for my crew rating. I've completed my radio course, first aid, sea survival and others. I get to work with skilled and experienced skippers who supervise me in operating the vessel. It's a very supportive training environment.

"Volunteering with Marine Rescue has shaped my confidence and skills. Having mentors around encourages me to be safe when on the water for example, logging on and off every trip, checking equipment, and especially wearing lifejackets. It gave me the confidence to apply for the Young Endeavour program, which turned into a life-changing experience, also giving me the confidence to get in and have a go.

"I'm also undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Program. Marine Rescue has been nothing but supportive in helping me achieve this, especially Adrian and Shaun. Unit Coxswain Paul Barrie was the one who mentioned the Young Endeavour program to me. On the Young Endeavour's journey from Sydney to Brisbane, the crew elected me to be the captain/skipper for what we call Command Day. I'm sure this was due to the boating experience I've gained from Marine Rescue Terrigal. I would not have been able to have these experiences unless I'd heard about them as a volunteer with the Unit.

"Our watch team and other members within the unit have made it really easy to feel like part of the team and to belong. They were all happy because I lowered the average age of our membership! My twin brother has also decided to join. We also have other teenagers such as Ethan Pope and Rachael de Courcy in the unit. The senior members have always made us feel welcome, taking their time to teach us and provide as many opportunities as possible."

## Thanks to our Major Supporters





## PUTT PUTT REGATTA ATTRACTS THOUSANDS



A fantastic photobook of the 2025 Davistown Putt Putt Regatta that attracted thousands of spectators lining the waterfront for a good kilometre stretch. Much fun, with thanks to Joanne Lowth for some beaut photos, although we're still scratching our collective heads over the shot with the vampire teeth. We volunteers in blue (Marine Rescue Brisbane Water) did a good trade with the BBQ, and sold bundles of books for our Christmas Raffle. Thanks to all members who volunteered to lend a hand during the day.







# MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room



## HOPE THEY WORK THIS TIME...



Peninsula Chamber of Commerce will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Brisbane Water Oyster Festival on November 9

Chamber President Matthew Wales said the festival was one of the longest running community events on the Central Coast. "As a local business organisation, we are very proud to have provided this free iconic community event for 25 years," he said.

The Chamber of Commerce is calling for contestants for the 'How Many Oysters Can You Eat in 30 Seconds.' The winner last year consumed 32 oysters. All but one worked when he got home...

## NEW LIGHT FLOOD RESCUE VEHICLE FOR WYONG SES



Disaster response and recovery operations at Wyong will be strengthened with the delivery of a new light flood rescue vehicle worth \$270,000 to the local SES unit.

The vehicle is part of the NSW Government's 7 fleet replacement program, ensuring NSW State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers have the latest, purpose-built equipment to keep communities safe.

The light flood rescue vehicle is designed with enhanced off-road capability – the 4WD vehicle has a custom-built body for flood rescue equipment, and integrated stowage for inflatable flood rescue rafts.

The Bureau of Meteorology predicting that wetter than average weather will continue until the end of the year, with September-April typically the time when the frequency of storms, strong winds and heavy rain increases.

## VOLUNTEER MEMORIAL SERVICE



The NSW Emergency Service Volunteers Memorial Service to honour the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to their communities was conducted in October.

The memorial stands as a lasting tribute to volunteers from Marine Rescue NSW, the NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW State Emergency Service and VRA Rescue NSW, whose dedication and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

We extend our deepest sympathies to the families, friends and fellow volunteers of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

## NEW RWCs FOR BATEMANS BAY



Marine Rescue Batemans Bay has taken delivery of two new state-of-the-art rescue watercraft (RWCs – jet skis), significantly boosting the unit's ability to respond rapidly to emergencies on local waters.

The Seadoo jet skis, known as BM 10 and BM 11, are capable of speeds up to 93 km/h and are designed to operate on enclosed and offshore waters around Batemans Bay. Each craft can carry two crew members and transport a rescued person on a sled, providing vital versatility in time-critical missions.

This is the first time the Batemans Bay unit has operated RWCs, with Marine Rescue Tuross Moruya the only other South Coast unit with the vessels currently in their fleet.

## Thanks to our Major Supporters







## IMPORTANT WEEKEND TRAINING



Weekends are usually reserved for training exercises at Marine Rescue Brisbane Water.

Up to a dozen new recruits and current members were updated on the importance of knowing and understanding the weather and tidal conditions around the Central Coast, with instruction by **Jane** and **Raymond Lewis**.



Later in the day, **Chris Hartcher** discussed navigational methods, before new recruits were given the rundown on correct radio procedures by training officers **Paul Broad** and **Bob Gilbody**.



Pics: Suzanne Portefaux

## TOUKLEY BOAT RAMP UPGRADED



Marine Rescue NSW is receiving \$430,220 to upgrade the Toukley boat ramp at the Tuggerah Lakes base to improve the safety and usability for local boaters, visitors, and families.

Minister for Central Coast and Member for Wyong **David Harris** announced the funding through the Boating Infrastructure for Communities Grant Program, part of the \$44M Boating Infrastructure and Dredging Scheme.

"The upgrades are about delivering better, safer, and more accessible infrastructure to communities who rely on our waterways for work, leisure, and connection," he said.

## EXERCISING YOUR GREY CELLS



The miller's son is a bit of a loafer. His father wanted him to help with the grain, but the selfish boy has disappeared to play. Can you find the miller's son?





# MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room



## GLOBAL RECOGNITION FOR TWO

Two Marine Rescue NSW volunteers have been honoured at the 2025 International Maritime Rescue Federation (IMRF) Awards. The IMRF Awards celebrate excellence, innovation and leadership in maritime search and rescue (SAR) across the globe. They recognise individuals and organisations who have demonstrated outstanding skill, advanced technology and equipment, or inspired others through their dedication and example.

Marine Rescue NSW Monaro Regional Director and Bermagui Coxswain, Caron Parfitt ESM, received the IMRF Women in Search and Rescue Award, recognising her exceptional leadership and commitment to advancing the role of women in maritime SAR.



Marine Rescue Middle Harbour stalwart, Lance Miller ESM was named runner-up for the IMRF Lifetime Achievement in the Maritime SAR Sector Award. Long-serving Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) volunteer Peter Dawes received the top honour, with Miller recognised for his lifelong contribution to maritime safety and rescue.



## 2 MEN ON MISSING CAT RESCUED



Volunteers from Marine Rescue Iluka Yamba, with communications support from Marine Rescue Port Macquarie, have rescued two men missing on an 8.4-metre catamaran and returned them to shore

following an eight-and-a-half-hour search and rescue mission.

Marine Rescue NSW Inspector John Murray said volunteers at the Marine Rescue Port Macquarie radio hub received a call from the missing vessel at around 9pm on Sunday 28 September. The men were approximately 22 nautical miles (40km) east of Sandon Shoal.

"Marine Rescue Iluka Yamba was tasked by NSW Police Marine Area Command to rescue the two sailors. A volunteer crew was assembled and rescue vessel Iluka Yamba 30 deployed for the mission.

## XMAS RAFFLE DRAWN SUN NOV 30



Your chance to win your share of

# \$8,500 CASH

OR Terrigal Escape for 2



## CROWNE PLAZA

HOTELS & RESORTS



5 x \$100 gift vouchers at

# BUNNINGS warehouse

\$100 Gift Vouchers at these progressive Central Coast business



Tickets on sale between August 1 & November 30, 2025.  
\$2ea, or 3 for \$5, 7 for \$10, 15 for \$20 or 50 tickets for \$50  
Drawn 3pm Sunday November 30, 2025.



# Hundred bucks says there is a coyote under there!



## Thanks to our Major Supporters







# MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room



## THREE RESCUED AFTER BOAT CAPSIZED IN MAITLAND BAY



Three people were rescued after their boat capsized in Maitland Bay.

Police were called to Maitland Bay beach near Bouddi National Park at about 3pm on September 24 following reports of people in the water needing urgent assistance after the boat capsized.

Officers attached to Marine Area Command attended the scene and located a runabout boat overturned while two men – aged 69 and 61 – were in the water.

Police, with the assistance of a lifeguard from Central Coast Council, successfully pulled the two men out to the nearby rock platform area.

A short time later, police, with the assistance from lifeguards, managed to lift one side of the boat and rescued a third passenger – a second 69-year-old man – who managed to breath in the air pocket area.

An emergency landing zone was secured in the Woy Woy area with assistance from officers attached to Brisbane Water Police District, and the three men were airlifted to the area before they were taken to Gosford Hospital for further treatment.

Superintendent Joseph McNulty, Commander of Marine Area Command, says the importance of wearing a life jacket can be the difference between life or death on the water.

“All three men were wearing their life jackets at the time of incident, and it was a gamechanger in saving their lives,” he said.

“While we will be welcoming Summer soon, it is also the peak season of drowning incidents so our key message is simple; please plan your trip by checking your vessel, equipment and weather.

“Always be prepared for emergency situations by wearing an approved life jacket

“Wearing a life jacket will save not just your life but also protect your family from possibly losing a loved one.”

Who won the neck decorating contest?

It was a tie.

## EXPIRED FLARES COLLECTION



Saturday November 15. That's the date Transport for NSW Maritime will be running the Expired Marine Flare Collection Program at key boating locations across the Central

Coast. The program provides the opportunity for the public to dispose of their expired flares safely.

Collection points will be at **The Entrance North Boat Ramp** (No.534), Central Coast Highway intersection of Roberts St, The Entrance between 7:30 and 9:30 am.

**Gosford Main Boat Ramp**, Masons Parade, Gosford, between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm and **Lions Park Western Boat Ramp**, North Burge Road, Woy Woy, between 2:30 and 4:30 pm.

A collection point will also be held the following day, Sunday November 16 at **Deerubbun Reserve Boat Ramp**, Peats Ferry Road, Mooney Mooney from 7:30 until 10:30 am.

Reminder, It's an offence to ignite flares outside of an emergency, and expired flares must not be discarded in household waste or public bins.

## FAD FOR TERRIGAL



The State Government is set to deploy 34 Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) along the state's coastline, including one at Terrigal.

FADs are GPS-tracked floating buoys anchored to the ocean floor, providing structure in the open ocean environment and attracting key oceanic fish species.

Recreational fishers support the rollout of FADs because they provide fishers with a reliable spot to land a big catch, particularly the highly sought-after dolphinfish or mahi-mahi.

A spokesperson said the Government is committed to making recreational fishing in both salt and freshwater environments better, more accessible, and more fun for everyone through FADs and artificial reefs, funding for infrastructure, and fishing education in schools.



**FOR SALE:**  
70s iconic Sooty and Sweep puppets. Any offer accepted. Just want them off my hands





## STATE WIDE WATCH

### WHOOPI GIRLS ALL GO



Marine Rescue Woolgoolga has made history as the first Marine Rescue NSW unit to appoint an all-female executive team.

The Mid North Coast unit, which boasts 44 volunteers, is now led by Unit Commander **Taylor Marshall**, supported by Deputy Unit Commander **Lisa Mobbs**, Treasurer **Cherrill Powell**, Admin Officer **Susan Nielsen-Robson**, and Membership Officer **Dolly Clarke**.

Unit Commander Marshall said the milestone had been warmly welcomed across the organisation and the community.

"It wasn't planned, it just happened and I'm glad it did. It's making waves, and that's nice. The unit executive is a wonderful group of dedicated women who believe in our members, the service and the community. I'm very excited to be on this journey with them and our incredible volunteers," she said.

Pic: Top (L to R) **Dolly Clarke**, **Cherrill Powell**, **Lisa Mobbs** and **Taylor Marshall**, Susan Nielsen-Robson absent.

### MRNSW CHAIR STEPS DOWN



**James (Jim) Glissan AM ESM KC** has served as Chair of the Marine Rescue NSW Board since 2010.

As a founding Board member, he played a pivotal role in guiding the amalgamation of three volunteer organisations, and shaping Marine Rescue NSW during its formative years.

Jim was awarded Marine Rescue NSW Life Membership in 2021.

### NEW BASE & TRAINING CENTRE FOR SHOALHAVEN MARINE RESCUE



Marine Rescue Shoalhaven will be the proud recipient of \$2,068,884 from the Regional Economic Development and Community Investment Program. The project will include the construction of a purpose-designed, state-of-the-art emergency services base and training facility. The building will also be designed for wider community use, including hosting meetings, workshops and functions.



### NEW MRNSW CHAIR APPOINTED



The Marine Rescue NSW Board of Directors has announced the appointment of current Director, **Nola Watson** as the new Chair, effective immediately.

Nola is a seasoned Board Director and executive leader with extensive experience across business, government, and member-based

organisations. She has served on the Marine Rescue NSW Board since November 2023, bringing both strategic insight and operational understanding to the role.

## Thanks to our Major Supporters





## THE NUMBERS GAME

### BUSIEST SEPTEMBER ON RECORD FOR MARINE RESCUE

Demand for Marine Rescue NSW assistance has resulted in the busiest September on record for the volunteer-based service, with 372 search and rescue missions across the state.

This number exceeds the previous highest callout, when volunteer crews completed 360 search and rescues in September 2023.



In the Central Coast and Hunter region, 98 search and rescue missions, including 19 emergency responses, were recorded. The Point Clare-based Brisbane Water unit responded to the second-highest number of missions during the month with 19 search and rescue incidents. The busiest unit was Lake Macquarie with 40 missions, while Port Stephens recorded 17.

September search and rescue missions since 2021:

September 2025 – 372

September 2024 – 291

September 2023 – 360

September 2022 – 230

September 2021 – 209

"We would much prefer to be seeing record-low numbers because when demand for Marine Rescue NSW is down, it means boaters are having an enjoyable day on the water and returning home safely," said Marine Rescue NSW Acting Commissioner Todd Andrews.

"Unfortunately, that wasn't the story last month, with crews in high demand, performing 372 search and rescue missions, including 134 emergency responses, and safely returning 802 people to shore.

"Concerningly, 65% of responses were for engine, battery and fuel

issues, many of which are preventable with better vessel maintenance, planning and preparation.



"Boaters need to be meticulous in ensuring their vessel is in good working order, they have enough clean fuel, are carrying the correct safety equipment, wearing a lifejacket and monitoring the weather," Acting Commissioner Andrews said.

Marine Rescue NSW volunteers managed 21,100 radio calls in September, including nine Mayday and four Pan Pan calls, and kept watch over 26,556 people on board Logged On vessels.

"Logging On takes just a minute and provides peace of mind for boaters and their loved ones because if they don't return from their trip on the water as planned, a search will be initiated," Acting Commissioner Andrews said.



Boaters can Log On with Marine Rescue NSW via the free Marine Rescue NSW app or VHF Channel 16.

"All boaters using the Marine Rescue NSW app are encouraged to enable location services for faster, more accurate help when you need it most — it could save your life," he said.

The Central Coast Hunter division includes 8 units: Port Stephens, Lemon Tree Passage, Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Norah Head, Tuggerah Lakes, Brisbane Water & Terrigal.

Marine Rescue NSW is a volunteer based not-for-profit professional organisation dedicated to keeping boaters safe on the water and supporting local communities.



#### MRBW OPERATION PERFORMANCE

|  |                                    |  |                                      |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
|  | Aug 96 Log Ons<br>Sept 120 Log Ons |  | Aug 13 Incidents<br>Sept 8 Incidents |
|  | Aug 250 POB<br>Sept 335 POB        |  | Aug 10 Transfers<br>Sept 6 Transfers |



I was going to join my High School Debating Team ... until someone talked me out of it.



## FAVOURITE PHOTOS



RVCP Members involved in Hands On Fire Fighting Training

## DUTY ROSTER

| November |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| M        | T  | W  | TH | F  | S  | SU |
|          |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| 3        | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10       | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17       | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24       | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| December |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| M        | T  | W  | TH | F  | S  | SU |
| 1        | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8        | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15       | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22       | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29       | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |



## NOTICE BOARD

**Your 2024-25 Executive Committee:**

**Unit Commander : Ian Morrow**

**Deputy Unit Commanders :**

**Tony Long : (Administration)**

**Ian Radford : (Operation)**

**Treasurer : Shea Wicks**

**Administration : Chris Hartcher**

**Training Systems Officer : Paul Broad**

**Training Officer : Bob Gilbody**

**Infrastructure Officer : Peter Alderton**

**Grants : Paul Brierley**

**Membership : Geoff Hawes**

**MARINE RESCUE NSW BRISBANE WATER**

ABN 98 138 078 092

NSW Authority to Fund Raise CFN 21153

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Phone 02 4337 9600 Fax 02 4325 1806

E-Mail: [uc.brisbanewater@marinerescuensw.com.au](mailto:uc.brisbanewater@marinerescuensw.com.au)

**Unit Commander Ian Morrow**

**Mobile 0435 477 852**

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*Members contributions welcome.*

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**NEXT UNIT MEETING:**

**13th DECEMBER 2025**  
**preceded by Vessel Operations meeting**