



CENTACO NEWS

For Members & Friends of Marine Rescue Brisbane Water



December 2025 / January 2026



From Unit Commander, Ian Morrow ESM:

I would like to thank you all for your commitment over the last year and of course extend that thanks as we launch into 2026. Also I extend season's greetings to you and your families and hope for a safe holiday for everyone and especially from a MRNSW viewpoint, include the boating community.

As I look at the year in review I think you can be justifiably proud of your collective actions, your work ethic and your general demeanour throughout the upheavals of the last year or so. It seems like a distant memory being squashed into the confines at Woy Woy and the "Donga" but we made it.



Of course, looking back over the year, there has been sadness also, and we remember those members we have lost in 2025, Harry Scales and Judith Morris. we



will always treasure our good memories of them but tinged with sadness, nonetheless.

Overall 2025 has been a very successful year and as you read through the other officer's reports you will see that we have made great progress through all the portfolios. I want to sincerely thank all the



Executive for their contributions and support throughout the year.

This time of year is a time for families to get together and enjoy precious time together. I hope everyone has the opportunity to be with their families and enjoy the spirit of the season.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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MRBW OPERATION PERFORMANCE



Oct 114 Log Ons
Nov 128 Log Ons



Oct 29 Incidents
Nov 18 Incidents



Oct 280 POB
Nov 284 POB



Oct 26 Transfers
Nov 6 Transfers

LOG ON LOG OFF

With the FREE Marine Rescue NSW App
or VHF Ch 16





**Deputy Unit
Commander (Admin)**
Report by Tony Long



As we draw to the end of 2025 we have achieved and grown substantially over the last 12 months. Member numbers are strong and we are in a good financial position coming into 2026. I thank every member who has stood around a hot BBQ at Bunnings, walked the rooms at the Ettalong Beach Hotel or sat outside venues selling raffle tickets to the community. Your efforts continue to secure our ability to provide a professional emergency service to the Central Coast community.

The leadership of **Ian M** and **Ian R** continues to ensure we are steering the right path. I would also like to thank the administration team that I work with and who operate in the shadows to make this base run.

To **Shea** and **David Wicks**, **Chris Hartcher**, **Geoff Hawes** and **Peter Alderton**, a personal thank you from me for assisting me in the last few months taking on the role of DUCA.

Work will continue at the base in the coming months and the memorial is near completion with the flags being installed over the weekend. A big thanks to **Sully** and the team.

Projects at the forefront are looking at the heat issues in the radio room, re-building the dinghy rack, renovations to the slipway, steps from the slipway to the base and many more projects to come.

We will be addressing the shortage of mid week radio staff, an assistant treasurer and fundraising members through targeted advertising on our social media space. We continue to seek alternate sources of funding and I am always looking for suggestions and recommendations for sponsorship or partnerships.

It would be remiss of me not to mention those members we have lost in the last 12 months, the devastating fires at Koolewong and the tragedy at Bondi that we all have witnessed. Our thoughts and prayers remain with those impacted.

As well as being the busiest few months ahead I encourage everyone to take the time to embrace and enjoy the company of family and friends over the Christmas, New Year period. You all deserve that time and please cherish it. Stand proud, your community thanks you for your commitment and service.

On behalf of my family to yours I wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas and New Year.



**Deputy Unit
Commander (Operation)**
Report by Ian Radford



2025 has been a landmark year.

Our new state-of-the-art base has delivered a modern communications centre, improved crew facilities, and enhanced equipment storage, enabling faster tasking and better member support.

We expanded training in night operations, advanced navigation, radio communications and incident management, increasing the number of accredited crew ready for more complex missions.

Equipment investments has focused on vessel readiness, personal protective equipment, and maintaining our aging fleet of vessels.

The upgrade of the Marine Rescue NSW radio network from DCN to PSN will provide us with much better coverage and reliability once the gremlins have been sorted out.

We have seen a substantial rise in callouts, with the unit recording the second-highest number of search and rescue missions in the region during the year.

Our volunteers are the backbone of the unit, providing 24/7 coverage and a diverse range of skills.

As we look to 2026, we remain committed to our mission of saving lives on the water, fostering a culture of safety, and working to achieve continuous improvement in every facet of our Unit.

I would like to thank all our members for their outstanding contribution and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a rewarding 2026.



Thanks to our Major Supporters





Training Report by Bob Gilbody



The end of a successful and busy year in Training. This year we conducted 17 successful Operational Assessments (OAs) at our base (as well as assisting Norah Head and Tuggerah Lakes with their Operational Assessments), these local OAs could not have been achieved without **Paul Broad** and **Suzzane Portefaix** pushing radio training as well as **Max Landells** and **Neville Shakeshaft** pushing crew and coxswain training. All this training is culminated with training on watches. Thank you to all concerned.

We had three operational assessments during the period with congratulations going to **Rebeca McNeill** from the February intake completing her radio assessment and **David Golding** after a time of illness completing his radio assessment. **Ryan Marriott** is also to be congratulated for completing his crew assessment. Very well done to these three members who will be an asset to our Unit and to their trainers for the arduous work put into it.

Thanks go to **Ian Morrow** and Paul Broad in assisting with *Fight Fire and Sea Survival*, **Sally Allen** with **Steven Constantine** and Paul Broad conducting First Aid, and our Boat Licence Trainers and Assessors **Jane** and **Raymond Lewis**, **Ian Leafe** and **Chris Hartcher**, and again Paul Broad. Payments for this Public Boat Licence are another fund raiser for our unit which seems to be forgotten.

Happy New Year to you and all your families

'DAVID' ASSISTS 'GOLIATH'



Christmas Eve and Marine Rescue Brisbane Water were kept busy.

At Wagstaffe, a tinny was observed towing the larger vessel to Pretty Beach boat ramp. MRBW stood by just to make sure 'David' got 'Goliath' there OK.

Later, a yacht experienced engine trouble required a tow from Lobster Beach to Ettalong.

Pics: Alan Harvey



Administration Report by Chris Hartcher



Occasionally, I get phone calls about prospective changes to LOPs that I then manage to forget about because they were not written down! The best way to suggest a change to an LOP is to use the Document Management System (DMS), where anyone can log in as a guest user, find the official version of a document and submit a change request. There is even a user guide available on TopMenu to explain how to do it. If you make your suggestion this way, it will be logged and I will get an email about it!

I also wanted to remind everyone about the changes to the building security rules. It is important that we all remember to lock the Crew Room/Bathroom door and the Bathroom/Wet Room door when the crew room is not in use. This is to prevent any unauthorized people walking through the bathroom from the training area to the operational areas. On weekends, lockup happens at the end of each day, but during the week, it may be that you are the only (or last) person using the Crew Room.

Please remember to lock the doors!

I am also responsible for the management of the Dinghy Rack, but right now I am not sure which of our members have boats of some kind on the rack. If you do have a boat there, I would really appreciate an email to let me know what rack number you are using, so that I know which ones are available to rent out.

2025 has been an interesting and busy year with us moving into our new home. I want to thank everybody who has provided any assistance to me over the year and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and successful New Year.



Rescue Water Craft Report by Mitch Giles



I can't believe we are already at the end of 2025! I hope all members had a great Christmas and have a fantastic new year.

I would like to take a moment to thank all of our RWCO's for everything they have done this year. I would also like to give a massive thank you to **Steve Maneschi** for going through all of the new RWCO material as requested by head office. Going through the work is a task and a half on its own, but the amount of feedback Steve provided was amazing, so well done and thank you Steve.

We are in talks with members from MRLM about a professional development day, we will give more information about that once we have a date locked in etc.

Bring on 2026!

Introducing Marine Rescue Brisbane Water Foundation Partners:





Membership Report by Geoff Hawes



I have great pleasure in presenting this **Annual Membership Report 2025** that provides an analysis of our base's membership for the 2025 calendar year. The membership is currently closed,

Throughout 2025, we held 3 new membership intakes February, March & August which saw 44 new members join. There were 4 Returning Members: who are included in the total number of new members

As of 19/12/2025, MRBW unit has a total of 142 active members, 17 of which are provisional members, reflecting both new registrations and renewals processed over the past 12 months.

The increase in new memberships may be attributed to targeted membership drive from Marine Rescue NSW Head office, the expansion of our digital presence and an interest in the new building. Feedback collected during onboarding suggests that our community involvement is significant motivators for joining.

Membership Renewals / Resignations

Renewals Completed: 134

Renewal Rate: 92%

17 members resigned throughout the year.

Reasons for Non-renewal: / Resignations, Relocation, changes in personal circumstances, or shifting interests

Our high renewal rate indicates strong member satisfaction and loyalty. Ongoing communication, contributed to this positive trend:

Engagement and Activities

Members actively participated in various activities throughout the year, including:

Weekly Ettalong Hotel Raffles, Regular Bunnings Barbeques, Annual Christmas Raffle, Weekly vessel training, Other training activities

I would welcome any feedback, suggestions you may like to offer which could assist with members positive experiences.

While membership numbers and enquires are positive, challenges remain in attracting younger demographics.

The 2025 membership year has been marked by growth, and resilience. I'd like to thank all members for their continued support.

I would also like to thank the previous Membership officer **Lisa Pollard** and **Tony Long** for their diligence and dedication to the position.

As the year draws to a close and the festive season approaches, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to you and your family for a happy Christmas and a fantastic New Year.



Fund Raising Report by David Wicks



Two record figures for our **Bunnings BBQs** on Sat Dec 13 & Sat Dec 27. A constant stream of customers both days saw us gross astounding fundraising figures to help keep the unit operating. A magnificent Team Effort from **everyone** involved. So very pleased and thanks for giving MRBW some more of your time over the holidays. *Our next fundraiser is the **Australia Day Bunnings BBQ** on Monday January 26 - please practice your 'strine for the event!*



Great to see a mix of new & old blood popping up on the Xmas Raffle rosters - my thanks to **David Stefani, Peter Alderton, Steven Thompson and Garry Owens** for assembling an excellent selection of sellers during the four month period: Greens who contributed include **Peter Alderton, Ted Leeson, Michael Kerr, Chris Hartcher, David Savieri, Ross Ward, Peter Louie, Bob Knowles, Paul Broad, Bob Gilbody, Penny Booth, Lisa Pollard, Andrew McKellar, Brooke Heyward, Trevor Phipps, Kevin Sullivan, Mitch Giles, Lindsey Edgar, Rob Zwart, Warren Mann, Robert Smith, Doug Fitzgerald, Trevor Clark and Stu Gault.** Thank you.



From Gold – **Nik Banjevic, Brendon Weston, Tony Giorgio, Bill Rathmell, Chris Thomas, Mark Luland, Alex Constantine, Michael White, Bill Weekes, Alf Raposarda, Ian Liles, Mal Sinclair, Paul Degeling, Mark Price, Paul Brierley, David Sefani, George Kowalski, Steve Maneschi, Max Landells, Shane Rigney, Robert Rigon, Tony Thomas, Rob Landis, Steve Sai-Louie, Bill Mead, Steven Constantine and Martin Gray** – Several members volunteered for 4 or 5 shifts! Great job.

The Blueys – **Jane Lewis, Raymond Lewis, Garry Owens, Suzanne Portefaix, Adrian Burke, Pam Bennett, Neil Bennett, Heather Bowes, Duncan Coles, Jack Bree, Ian Morrow, Anthony Fenton, Adrian Davies, Steve Brown, Rebecca Nutley, Ian Radford, Bob Shaw, Ryan Marriott, Ian Leafe, Roger Graham, Ian Davidson, Colin Thomson, David Lawrence, Bruce Thomas and Bill O'Brien.** 25 members, some tripling their time. Well done.

The Reds - **David Jesaveluk, Alan Harvey, Steven Thompson, Bob Shaw, Alan Hargreaves, David Golding, Peter Todd, Joanne Lowth, Chris Johnston, Steve Sai Louie, Collis Harvey, Bec McNeill, Evan McNeill, Chrissie Lowe, David Lowe, Sally Allen, Neville Shakeshaft, Rolf Rienhardt, Jane Jovani, Terry Laybutt, Don Fredric, Ben Carey, Steven Constantine, David Humphries, Simon Spencer, David Wicks, Ian Morrow and Shea Wicks.**

Thanks to our Major Supporters



DATES TO REMEMBER



TRAINING:

Upcoming training sessions are:

2026 Boat Licence Courses.

- 15 Feb 26 Jane & Raymond Lewis
- 12 April 26 Bob Gilbody & Paul Broad
- 27 June 26 Ian Leafe & Chris Hartcher
- 22 Aug 26 Jane & Raymond Lewis
- 25 Oct 26 Bob Gilbody & Paul Broad
- 13 Dec 26 Ian Leafe & Chris Hartcher



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 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 - Blue Watch**
- Fri Jan 23: **Meat Tray Raffles @ The Ettalong - Green Watch**
- Mon Jan 26: **BUNNINGS BBQ (West Gosford) - AHOD**
- Fri Jan 30 **Meat Tray Raffles @ The Ettalong - Gold Watch**
- Fri Feb 6 **Meat Tray Raffles @ The Ettalong - Red Watch**
- Fri Feb 13 **Meat Tray Raffles @ The Ettalong - Blue Watch**
- Sat Feb 14 **Radio Op & Unit Meeting @ The Base**
- Sun Feb 15 **Boat Licence Course @ The Base**



MEMBER OF THE MONTH NOVEMBER



ALAN HARVEY

MEMBER OF THE MONTH DECEMBER



GARRY OWENS

Happy Birthday

JANUARY

Mark Luland, Martin Gray, Rob Murray, Suzanne Portefaix, Brent Malcolm, David Savieri, Greg Taylor, Lisa Pollard

FEBRUARY:

Ian Radford, David Lawrence, Brooke Heyward, David Golding, Adrian Davies, Ian Leafe, Jane Lewis, Bill O'Brien, Trevor Clark, Don Fredric, Paul Broad, Simon Spencer, Scott Harris, Brendon Weston, David Bell, George Kowalski, Terry Laybutt, Alan Harvey.

I wrote nearly a dozen jokes for the Newsletter and tested them on the Executive to see if they made them laugh... Sadly, no pun in ten did.

Thanks to our Major Supporters





Watch REPORTS



GOLD WATCH: November 8 & 9, 2025

A morning dedicated to Coxn and CoxnR training on Broken Bay, while towing errant driftwood floating in the bay creating a hazard to navigation. During the day the RWCs located 3 vessels in disrepair or sunken in various areas and had them reported to Maritime. One was a sunken yacht at Couch Park that we couldn't ascertain was safely secured to a mooring. It was checked Sunday and found to be secure.

Sunday morning BW22 was dispatched early to Lions Park with equipment to assist with the oyster festival, then, during the day, ferried equipment and personnel from the event. Sunday morning training was in the charge of **Steven** and **Alex Constantine**. Lucky trainees were **Dan Fedson** and **Gavin Ashby**. During the day we "flew the flag" at the Oyster festival with both RVs and RWCs.

BW21 located a huge log floating in Brisbane water and with considerable difficulty towed it to Lions Park and delivered it to the boat ramp area with the RWC operators providing vital assistance. I would also like to thank Steven Constantine, **Antony Price** and **Paul Broad** (who never seems to take a moment off duty) for their cooperation and hard work in achieving a very worthwhile outcome which I thought almost impossible. Congratulations gentleman, very well done!

Brendon Weston

GOLD WATCH: December 6 & 7, 2025

Saturday: Training commenced with emphasis on finishing Coxn training for **Mal Sinclair** in conjunction with various other trainees. Later in the day we were made aware of a serious bushfire at Koolewong. Our rescue vessels were sent to the area to observe and be prepared should they be required to assist. We closely monitored the situation through the day and made preparations to send BW22 into Woy Woy Bay should we be required. Fortunately the tides were in our favour but we were not required.

Sunday commenced with a call from a vessel with steering difficulties drifting north from Paddy's. Mal S dispatched, took the tow and deposited said vessel to its wharf opposite the base in Point Frederick. A very accomplished performance in difficult conditions.

Sunday morning crew training saw three new recruits, **Rob Landis**, **Bob Sullivan** and **Uli Schild** who had a most interesting morning in difficult conditions. Mid afternoon we received a Mayday report of one adult and two children in the water off Umina Beach. BW22 was dispatched together with both RWCs, as BW21 was not operational due to lift malfunction. The RWCs hurried ahead of the RV and arrived on scene a valuable and potentially life saving 12 minutes ahead. Upon arrival MR Broken Bay was on scene and the PIW were safely aboard. The remainder of the day was spent training and cleaning up the base and boats.

Brendon Weston

RED WATCH: November 15 & 16, 2025

Over the weekend we had four calls for assists and another cancelled. The first job on Saturday was at Godfrey Pontoon near the at St Huberts Island Road Bridge requiring a short raft. The second job of the day was a tinny at Daley's Point determined safe tied to a wharf and no assistance required.

Early Sunday morning we assisted a dive boat off First Point with engine problems, TG30 attended with a tow back to the Haven. Whilst on patrol in Hardy's Bay BW21 was flagged down by a vessel adrift required a short raft back to mooring.

In between assists we had plenty of opportunity for training. On Saturday we ran a scenario for an injured PWC passenger at Lobster Beach (BW22) whilst BW21 went offshore searching for an overdue vessel, followed by a search for a missing person (PIW) as part of **Malcolm Sinclair's** preparation for his Coxswain Operational Assessment.

On Sunday we were kept busy with five new crew trainees.

All in all a great weekend.



Alan Harvey

RED WATCH: December 13 & 14, 2025

BW21 despatched at the request of the ZDOM to investigate the report of a 6M log floating in the Blackwall area. - Nothing found BW21 continued training.

Crew & Unit Meeting held at the Base Saturday morning.

BW21 collected a life raft no longer in service donated by a vessel from the Gosfor Sailing Club to be utilised for sea survival training.

BW21 & BW22 carried out towing exercises Saturday afternoon.

On the Sunday BW22 was out of action until late morning whilst a mechanic was called in as the port engine had a fuel issue.

On and off water training continued on the Sunday as well as First Aid and Advance Resus course going on in the background.

Late afternoon Sunday we had two assists within 30 mins of each other, both bow riders located at Lobster Beach one with a battery issue, the other engine problems, both requiring a tow, one to Koolewong, the other to Daleys Point.

Both vessels were then refuelled ready for their next adventures.

Alan Harvey



One thing I can't deal with is a deck of cards glued together.



Watch REPORTS



MID WEEK WATCH: Nov - Dec 2025

Firstly, I'd like to say that I'm filling in for Sally on this report as she is on her yearly sojourn to Queensland! Nice one Sal.

Congratulations to **David Golding** on obtaining his recent MRRO rating. We now have more rated Radio Operators to call upon, not only for Red Watch but Midweek watches too.

Once again, a big thank you to all those who have answered the call to help plug the gaps in the roster, especially with the Christmas and New year holiday celebrations looming.

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. Remember its up to you firstly to find a replacement. Sometimes swaps are the way to go so you can get a day off when it's your shift if you need or want to attend to something, knowing you will be repaying it back later. (Mind you, swapping the early morning shifts can be a bit of a challenge for any sleepy heads, and golfing enthusiasts!)

Radio trainees are always encouraged to ask if there is room midweek to sit in with a radio operator. The more exposure to the radio room, the better experience you will get particularly over the summer season. There are seasoned operators in the unit and their knowledge and experience are invaluable. Tap into it!!

Check the NEW Sop Op o8 which outlines the PSN radio protocols from P7.

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.

Chrissie Lowe



All quiet on Brisbane Water...it's a grey old Christmas morning!!

coast fm963 classic hits

THE FISHING FELLAS AT HI TIDE

The Fishing Fellas at Hi Tide from 6:00am Saturdays with Kieran Reekie, Alan Blake, Mal Poole & Grant Boyden, joined by David Golding with the MRBW report at 7:05.

AROUND THE BASES: Nov - Dec 2025

LAKE MAC



MRLM volunteers celebrated their annual Award Presentations in late November. The following members and awards are from L to R in the image: **Stephen Forster** Crew, **Mal Smyth** Crew, **Matt Dorhaeur** Crew, **Adam Shultz** Mayor Lake Macquarie, **Richard Jennings** 2025 Member Of The Year, **Malcolm Watson** Unit Life Member MRLM, **Jen Heath** Senior Crew, **Peter Sun** 20 Year Service Award MRNSW, **Jim Stringfellow** 20 Year Service Award MRNSW, **Warren Eades** 30 year Service Award MRNSW, **Frank Morrison** National Medal, **Ian Appleby** Radio Operator.

One member who wasn't able to make it to the presentation was **Anne Sullivan** who was also awarded Life Membership to MRLM for her great work and commitment as our Fundraising Officer. **Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie** is the busiest Marine Rescue NSW Unit, and our volunteers step up and are ready for every call from our community.

NEWCASTLE



At a recent unit meeting at our Stockton base, Zone Manager **Jane Shirriff** attended the unit to present the following members recognition. **Geraldine Allen** 10 year long service medal, **Mick Quill** elevation to Coxswain Restricted, and Radio Operator qualification to **Murray Richey**. Congratulations to all three and thank you to Jane for visiting the unit to award these three members their recognition.

Thanks to our Major Supporters





Watch REPORTS



BLUE WATCH: November 22 & 23, 2025

A few issues with BW22 made it a slow start on Saturday. Once we had 2 vessels up and running **Ryan Marriott** was put through his paces with a trial AO ready for Sunday. Miserable weather meant we had no assists however we put the downtime to good use setting up for the Unit Christmas Party. People were arriving early and *Dans Jerk Joint* managed to get the food rolling on time at 6.30. Queues weren't too bad and despite my concerns everyone was fed by 8pm with ribs and wings leftover to nibble on or take home in a doggy box. Party finished just after 10pm so all things considered it seemed to go down well, pleased we don't have to do it for another four years though.



Mine Host - Garry Owens

Ryan passed his OA for Crew Rating Sunday morning he was obviously delighted and so were we. BW21 was tasked to assist a broken down Jet Ski after lunch but were stood own just as they arrived. Training, refuelling and cleaning down the vessels kept us busy to close.

Garry Owens

BLUE WATCH: December 20 & 21, 2025



Saturday: An assist by BW21 from Lions Park to Gosford in the morning and an assist after lunch from Lobster Beach to Koolewong kept us reasonably busy, especially with a skeleton crew. Lots of radio training means our trainees will soon be ready for the OA.

Sunday started quiet but with Radio Training by **Paul Broad** and the impending heatwave we were all trying to keep cool in the AC. Short lived with an assist from Cockle Channel to St Huberts. A vessel with a trailer strapped underneath overheated his engine and was safely anchored but needed a tow to his own ramp. It was a very slow tow. Followed immediately by a flat battery in Kilcare Marina. We were unable to help.



Age 60 might mean the new 40, but 9pm is the new midnight

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

GREEN WATCH: November 29 & 30, 2025



No report received.

GREEN WATCH: December 27 & 28, 2025

Saturday was one assist and a training exercise in the vicinity of Lion Island.

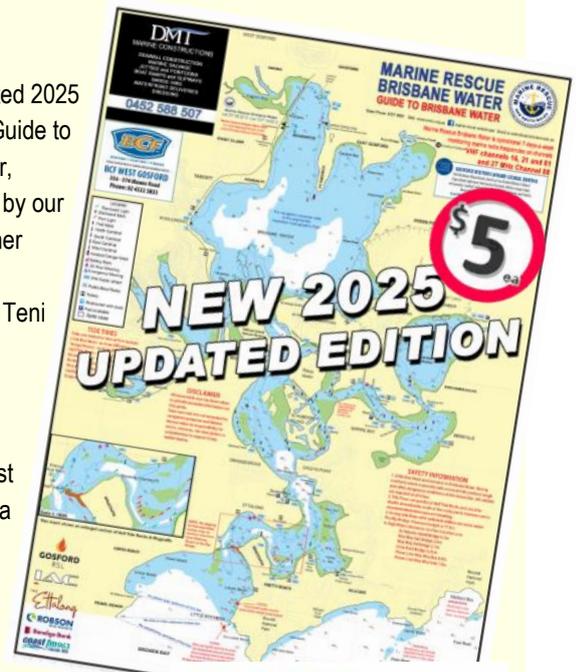
Sunday one assist in strong winds and a training exercise at Lions Park. All incidents carried out successfully.

 **Lifeline**
13 11 14

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 Tani at DMT Marine Constructions.

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



Actual Size:
42cm x 59cm

DMT
MARINE CONSTRUCTIONS
Building tomorrow's waterfronts

MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room

MRBW CELEBRATES THE SEASON



Volunteers saving lives on the water



MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room



UNIT MOVERS 'n' SHAKERS

RAPID-RESPONSE SAFETY SUPPORT

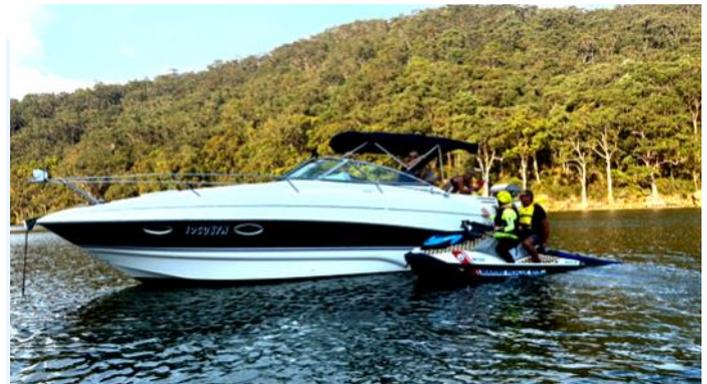


Bec McNeill

Neville Shakeshaft

Mal Sinclair

Congratulations to our star 2025 performers at MRBW - *Rookie of the Year* **Bec McNeill**, *Member of the Year* **Neville Shakeshaft** and *Fundraiser of the Year* **Mal Sinclair**. While everyone has contributed during the past twelve months, Bec, Neville and Mal have each gone that little harder to deliver results. Great job everyone.



A broken-down cabin cruiser with five people and two dogs on board became the subject of rescue by two Marine Rescue Brisbane Water Rescue Water Craft operators in an isolated part of Woy Woy Bay.

Two of the passengers were ferried on the RWCs to Rawson Street Public Wharf in Woy Woy, where their spare vessel was activated to resolve their predicament.

The incident occurred during an exercise involving more than 90 kilometres of Brisbane Water's many difficult-to-access locations.

The exercise involved the coordination of several local Marine Rescue Unit departments working effectively as a team, to provide specialist, rapid-response boating safety support in difficult-to-access shallow waters to the Brisbane Water community.



Meet our latest Life Member - **Nik Banjevic**, who has been a member of Marine Rescue since December 1997. Also presented with certificates of recognition at the December Unit Meeting were **David Lowe** MRCoxR, **Rebecca McNeill** MRRO, **David Golding** MRRO and **Ryan Marriott** MRC.

Pix: Geoff Hawes & Suzanne Portefaix



During the day the RWCs discovered three vessels in shallow areas, all in various states of distress or abandonment.

All seemingly abandoned vessels and their locations have been reported to NSW Maritime for further action.



The operation involved two Rescue Water Craft operators **Stephen Maneschi** and **Shane Rigney**, personnel in the Radio Room led by **Mark Luland**, Watch Officer **Brendon Weston** and the MRNSW Zone Duty Operations Manager.



Marine Rescue Brisbane Water is a volunteer organisation dedicated to saving lives on the water.

Report and pix: Stephen Maneschi



If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say "Did you bring the money?"



MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room



RADIO CLUB RENEWALS



Join the Marine Rescue Brisbane Water
Radio Safety Service

**\$45 for your first year.
\$35 annual renewals**

Radio Club Renewals for 2026 are now available.

By joining or renewing your membership in the Marine Rescue Brisbane Water Radio Club, your money goes directly to support the services provided by the unit.

Renewal notices are being sent out to all current members including current membership details and information on how to pay your renewal. Please let us know if any of your details need updating at the time of your renewal, or when you next log on.

Renewals can be paid in person at the Marine Rescue Brisbane Water base at the very northern end of Kurrawa Ave, Point Clare (follow the road as far as you can until you reach a sealed car park - our base is on the right). Call in and ask for Dave Mead. Better yet, phone first to see when he'll be on duty - 4337 9600. Or be adventurous and pay by EFT direct into our bank account.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

NEAR DISASTER AVERTED



What began as a perfect day on the water, anchored up and enjoying Lobster Beach, unravelled in seconds.

After rounding the next headland to explore, the engine suddenly died, complete electrical earth failure. Boater Lee Williams takes up the story.

"Almost immediately, the rip through the channel took control, dragging us fast and relentlessly toward the rocks. The situation escalated quickly. Thankfully, my son was nearby on his PWC and managed to get a line on us, pulling us just clear of the rocks but the current was too strong, the PWC couldn't make headway against the rip pulling us.

"With no other options, we dropped anchor and made a distress call on Channel 16. The Radio Base struggled to read us clearly through the conditions, but they caught our call sign CC041. Paul Broad recognised it instantly and rang me on his mobile. The Base was experiencing phone issues, he advised that BW22 was already on the way, led by Ian the UC.

"From calm to critical in seconds — a stark reminder of how fast the ocean can change from what was a nice relaxing day.

"First the two RWC's arrived on scene to assess the situation promptly followed by the calvary - the boss and the crew on BW22. To all the watch today, thank you! It was great to see the professionalism from the public perspective. First class service - TSO on comms and the UC leading the vessel crew

"Proud to be part of this amazing team!"

- Lee Williams. Boater and provisional member of Marine Rescue Brisbane Water.

MRBW: Volunteers saving lives on the water.

Pix: Lee Williams

Thanks to our Major Supporters



MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room



CALL TO MAINTAIN YOUR VESSEL



Two adults and two children were saved after their boat ran into engine trouble on a mid-December Sunday afternoon.

Marine Rescue Brisbane Water were called after the boat, which was anchored off Lobster Beach, wouldn't start and a flat battery was suspected.

Rescue vessel BW 21 was sent to the area to tow the stricken boat and passengers to safety.

A second boat, also at Lobster Beach, needed a tow to the Rip Bridge after experiencing similar engine failure problems.

With the boating season now fully underway, Marine Rescue is calling on boaters to ensure their vessel is well-maintained, carry ample clean fuel, and always wear a lifejacket to avoid becoming a statistic.

56% of Marine Rescue responses were for engine, battery, and fuel issues in November.

Pic: Christine Lowe

TRAINING ROOM IN DEMAND



Marine Rescue Brisbane Water's Meeting and Training rooms are increasing in demand.

This week, the Tuggerah Lakes Police District Senior Leadership Team held its monthly meeting at the new rooms at the Base at Point Claire.

"It was a great opportunity to view the impressive new facilities and get a better understanding of the capabilities of our Marine Rescue volunteers," said a Senior Leadership spokesperson.

"These relationships are critical in keeping our communities safe."

Pictured with the Tuggerah Leadership Team are MRBW Training Systems Officer **Paul Broad** and Administration Manager **Chris Hartcher**, with **Lexie, the Wonder Dog**, front and slightly off-centre. You try moving her!

BE ALERT WHEN CROSSING A COASTAL BAR - SHIRRIFF



Boating safety these holidays is of paramount importance.

One of the most dangerous aspects of boating is when a boat attempts to leave a river or lake to venture out onto the ocean – this is known as crossing the mouth bar.

A mouth bar is an element of a deltaic system, which refers to the typically mid-channel deposition of the sediment transported by the river channel at the river mouth. The results can make crossings treacherous.

The Swansea Channel Bar is a gateway to adventure that demands respect from every skipper attempting to cross.

Marine Rescue NSW Hunter Central Coast Inspector Jane Shirriff has seen first-hand how quickly conditions can turn dangerous on the notorious bar.

"Boaters looking to cross Swansea Channel Bar should stand off, check the conditions and then decide whether it is safe to proceed," Inspector Shirriff said. "It is best to cross on a run-in tide because there are fewer compression waves," adding that local knowledge is key.

"Marine Rescue NSW encourages boaters to always seek advice from their local unit on the best options for going in or out in that particular area and what navigation aids are available. The decision and responsibility to proceed always remain with the skipper of the vessel intending to cross the bar."



The funeral of the Tupperware inventor has been postponed... They're still trying to find the lid that fits his coffin.



MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room



SECOND HIGHEST S & R IN NOVEMBER FOR MRBW



Marine Rescue Brisbane Water once again conducted the second highest number of search and rescues in the Central Coast/Hunter district during November.

Leading the field with 45 Search and Rescues was Lake Macquarie, followed by Brisbane Water with 18 and Port Stephens with 15.

Marine Rescue NSW volunteers across the state returned 823 people safely to shore during November, completing more than 370 search and rescue missions, including 108 emergency responses.

Acting Commissioner Todd Andrews said demand remains high for the volunteer service.

"Following successive record months in September and October, our volunteers were in high demand throughout November, completing 373 search and rescue missions, just 18 fewer than the record set in 2022.

Last month, 56% of responses were for engine, battery, and fuel issues, while crews also attended 22 groundings.

"Groundings are avoidable. Boaters must be aware of the tides, the environment, and conditions. If boating in an unfamiliar area, consult local charts and speak with the nearest Marine Rescue NSW unit before heading out," Acting Commissioner Andrews said.

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

Pic: Marine Rescue Middle Harbour responded to a grounded vessel in late November

MULTI-AGENCY SEARCH OFF NORAH HEAD



Marine Rescue NSW volunteers and vessels from the Norah Head and Lake Macquarie units assisted in a multi-agency search for a missing male swimmer near Norah Head late November, before the 18 year-old's body was sadly discovered by police divers.

Marine Rescue NSW Inspector Andrew Harding said Norah Head 20 and Lake Macquarie 30 conducted an expanding parallel-line search, pushing north to Hargraves Beach and south past Pelican Beach.

"Conditions were challenging, with a 2.5 to 3-metre southerly swell and winds up to 15 knots. The Marine Rescue NSW crews continued searching under the direction of NSW Police Marine Area Command," Inspector Harding said.

The male was in a group of four teenagers when the sandbar on which they were standing collapsed. Volunteers from Marine Rescue Norah Head searched for almost three hours when first deployed at 9 o'clock Sunday night.

Marine Rescue NSW is a volunteer-based organisation.



When I was young I was poor. But after years of hard, honest and painstaking work, I'm no longer young.

A friend in a retirement village has joined a dating service... carbon dating.

Thanks to our Major Supporters





MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room



MEMORIAL GARDEN COMPLETED



Thurs Nov 27 2025

Marine Rescue Brisbane Water currently has approximately 140 volunteer members centred at our base at Point Clare. But we remember our members who are no longer with us. Those who have "crossed the bar". In late November, we started preparing an area near the main entrance to our new building that will become a memorial to those who have served with us in the past. Former colleagues - great mates. Still with us in our hearts.



Sat Dec 6 2025

Early December, in 42-degree heat, **Kevin Sullivan, Andrew McKellar, Rob Murray and Bob Knowles** were busy arranging sandstone blocks for the new Memorial Garden to honour our departed colleagues. The updated memorial has been made possible through a grant by **Ettalong Diggers**, with a donation of labour, time and transport by **Grants Road Sand, Troy Heavy Haulage and Grahame Davis**.



Wed Dec 24 2025

KAYAK FLIPS, FISHERMAN SAVED



Volunteers from Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie have retrieved a kayak angler stranded in waters off Pulbah Island after his craft overturned and became semi-submerged early December.

Marine Rescue NSW Inspector Jane Shirriff said a crew from Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie was tasked just after 4:30 pm.

"Rescue vessel Lake Macquarie 31 was immediately deployed, with the crew performing a contour search of the Island where the angler was reportedly in the water.

"Aerial assistance also supported the mission, with a rescue helicopter locating the man and directing the Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie crew to his location which was between Pulbah Island and Point Wolstoncroft," Inspector Shirriff said.

Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie Unit Commander Jim Wright said volunteers on board LM 31 retrieved the man from the water.

"He had been in the water for some time and was quite cold.

"The Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie crew checked his welfare and wrapped him in blankets to increase his body temperature," Unit Commander Wright said.

The fisherman said his kayak became unstable and overturned. He was able to get back into the craft the first time, but it rolled a second time and filled with water.

"The man did all the right things. He was wearing a lifejacket — a bright yellow one, which made him easier to see — and he remained with his craft, which is what people in this situation should always do," Unit Commander Wright said.

"The fact he was wearing a lifejacket and the swift response from both our crew and the rescue helicopter led to a positive outcome. NSW Water Police also assisted on scene; it was an excellent multi-agency response," he said.

When I say "the other day", I could be referring to anytime between yesterday and 45 years ago...



MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room

FIRST AID REFRESHER



Blood, bruises and broken bones were in abundance on Brisbane Water in November when Marine Rescue Brisbane Water volunteers sat for their first aid and advanced resuscitation course.

The course, a requirement for all skippers and boat crew, is part of the skill sets and knowledge needed to take an active role in Marine Rescue.



Course instructor, **Steven Constantine**, said all members - whether crew or radio operators - are trained to provide first aid assistance to people in need, particularly on the water.



"In the event of a person suffering a serious injury or illness, this may well save lives, especially when paramedics aren't able to assist quickly," said Constantine.

It's not just the crews who have been asked to assist injured or ill people, but Marine Rescue radio operators have had to give first-aid advice over the radio or phone at times, underlining the organisation's mission statement, 'volunteers saving lives on the water'.

Volunteer Profile

BEC McNEILL



Bec McNeill signed up to join Marine Rescue just 12 months ago because she wanted to get involved in volunteering and felt MRBW was the perfect fit, as she likes spending time outdoors and on the water, listing snowboarding, wakeboarding and travelling as her go to hobbies.

"It offered me the chance to learn new skills, give back to the community, and do something meaningful for myself," said Bec, who works full time as Group Procurement Centre of Excellence and Digital Manager for Coca-Cola Europacific Partners

"My most treasured lifetime memory is the first overseas holiday Ev and I took together in 2013, when we travelled through Russia, Mongolia, and China. Each destination was unique and offered experiences so different from home, reminding us how travel helps you truly appreciate what you have.

"The highlight of the trip, though, was Ev surprising me with a proposal in St Petersburg - a memory I'll always treasure," said Bec.

She recently obtained her MRRO rating and is grateful for her volunteering opportunities.

"Volunteering allows you to engage with a different aspect of your community, stay connected with a diverse team of people, and keep your mind active through continuous learning," she said.

She smiled as she recalled her most memorable experience with Marine Rescue.

"Taking my first radio call as a trainee radio operator. I had a complete mind blank on the correct processes and words to use, but looking back, I feel proud of how far I've come since then. It serves as a reminder that everyone starts as a beginner, and it motivates me to encourage and support new trainees as they begin their journey."

Bec was awarded the 2025 'Rookie of the Year' by Unit Commander, Ian Morrow.

Thanks to our Major Supporters





SKIPPER PAYS HIS DUES



Windy weather kept many boaters off the water in November, but a few Coasties did still venture out to make the most of the good fishing of late.

With a fair bit of debris in the water due to the current very high tides, one skipper found his small Quintex striking a submerged object, causing failure of the outboard engine.

Brisbane Water 21, just departing the Woy Woy Oyster Festival was passing by shortly after the mishap, and was flagged down to provide assistance.

Taking the tinny under tow, BW21's crew were able to place her safely on the wharf at Blackwall boat ramp, despite blustery conditions and a high tide hiding the dangerous oyster covered rocks at that location.

Grateful for the rapid and professional assistance provided, the skipper was pleased to join two of the crew in a photo, and made a large donation to the Base. Thank you skipper!

Report & Pic: Steven Constantine

QUARTER OF A MILLION VIEWS



Our main MRBW Facebook page has enjoyed a huge increase in the number of views recorded by Meta.

In the 60 days prior to Christmas Day, we've had more than a quarter of a million views. 250,092 to be precise.

Our 90-day total has passed 337,167 views - up an astounding 485%.

Thank you for taking interesting pics from the vessels and forwarding them to me - a lead photo always attracts attention and increases the number of potential 'shares' as well.

This all contributes to the greater awareness that the general public has enjoyed of MRBW during the past 18 months or so. Take a bow!

PUBLIC SHELLS OUT FOR OYSTER FESTIVAL



The 2025 Brisbane Water Oyster Festival was the outstanding success we all knew it would be. An estimated 20,000 spectators promenaded the Lions Park waterfront to observe the oyster options, let the kids loose on sideshow alley rides, whet their adult whistles in the alcohol area, kick back with the entertainment by Swift Kick and Jellybean Jam and enjoy the beautiful Central Coast weather we've been blessed with.

Marine Rescue Brisbane Water - a totally voluntary charitable organisation - was there to sell raffle tickets to help raise the \$160,000 to keep our Base afloat for the next 12 months.



When one door closes and another door opens, you're probably in gaol.



MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room



LIFE MEMBERSHIP AFTER 35 YEARS



One of Marine Rescue's longest serving volunteers was recognised with Life Membership at the recent AGM in Sydney.

Marine Rescue NSW Life Membership recognises exceptional commitment, leadership and service and is among the highest honours, reserved for individuals whose contribution has shaped both their units and the wider organisation.

For **Frances (Margaret) Teal** of Marine Rescue Lake Macquarie, the honour marks the culmination of an extraordinary 35 years of volunteer service.

At 95, she is one of Marine Rescue NSW's longest-serving female volunteers. Beginning with the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol in 1991, Margaret brought an unwavering passion for training and education, particularly in First Aid, where she trained and assessed generations of volunteers.

She continues to serve operationally as a Watch Officer at the unit and remains a mentor to new members entering the radio stream.

\$22,000 GRANT FOR FIRIES



The Pearl Beach Fire Service's headquarters has received \$22,000 under the State Government's Community Building Partnership program (CBP) to refurbish the mezzanine and toilets. This is expected to bring the facilities up to standard to host events.

BUSIEST OCTOBER ON RECORD



Marine Rescue NSW volunteers across the state have experienced their busiest start to a boating season on record, performing 460 search and rescue missions in October — including 130 emergency responses — and safely returning 989 people to shore.

The Brisbane Water Unit experienced the second highest number of search and rescue missions across the Central Coast/Hunter region that month.

The highest was Lake Macquarie with 62 S&R missions, Brisbane Water with 29, followed by Port Stephens with 28 and Tuggerah Lakes 16.

The Central Coast/Hunter region recorded record high figures, with 155 search & rescue missions including 34 emergency responses with 310 people safely returned to shore across all 8 Hunter Central Coast units.

Acting Commissioner **Todd Andrews** said the figures were staggering and follow a record month in September, highlighting the sustained high demand for the Service's operations.



"We have seen a 19% increase in demand for our services compared with the same month last year, which was previously our busiest October.

"Our 3,500 volunteers were in high demand last month, with boaters making the most of favourable weather during the second half of the spring holidays, including the long weekend,"



My wife is really upset and cranky about my obsession of wanting to become a news anchor...

More on this after the break.

Thanks to our Major Supporters





MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room



EASTCOAST NEW BRONZE PARTNER



Welcome aboard to our latest Bronze Partner, Eastcoast Beverages at Kulnura. The local company has been steadily growing since the 1960s and now the third generation of the family-owned business continues to successfully expand nationally.

Besides water, Eastcoast provides delicious orange drinks across major Australian supermarkets. Thanks, Eastcoast!

COUPLE STRANDED IN LAKE



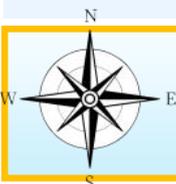
A volunteer crew from Marine Rescue Tuggerah Lakes safely returned a couple to shore after their vintage four-metre vessel began taking on water, leaving them stranded in the middle of Budgewoi Lake.

Marine Rescue NSW Inspector **Jane Shirriff** said NSW Police Marine Area Command requested volunteers from Marine Rescue Tuggerah Lakes to assist the boaters.

“A volunteer crew was quickly assembled and rescue vessel *Tuggerah Lakes 21* deployed just after 1pm.

“The Westpac Rescue Helicopter was in the area and provided situational awareness from above while *Tuggerah Lakes 21* was en route to the distressed vessel,” Inspector Shirriff said.

Marine Rescue Tuggerah Lakes Unit Commander **Tony Younglove** skippered the rescue vessel and said they checked the welfare of the man and woman on board before securing a towline and returning them and their boat to shore.



When I ask for directions, please don't use words like “east” or “south” or ...

CCC + SLSCC = \$213,500



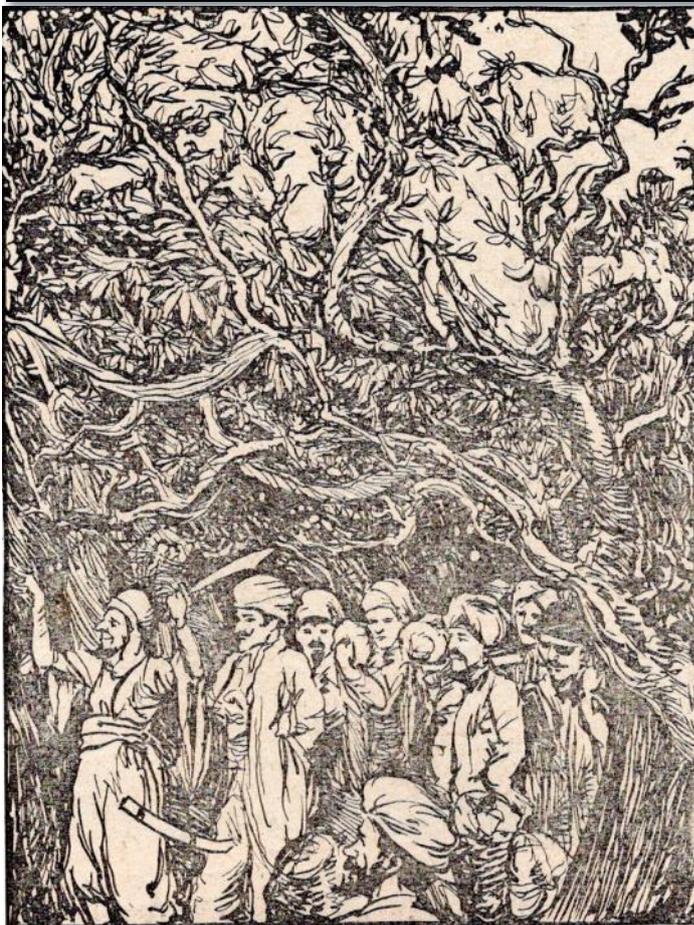
Central Coast Council has presented Surf Life Saving Central Coast (SLSCC) with a cheque for \$213,500, marking the second instalment of a four-year sponsorship agreement.

This funding will help SLSCC maintain vital beach safety services across 15 surf clubs along the Central Coast, and used to purchase rescue equipment, support beach safety operations and activities and deliver educational messaging.

In 2024-25 season, Surf Life Saving Central Coast had a total of 2,005 active members across the 15 Surf Clubs, who delivered over 93,710 patrolling hours, with 350 rescues completed.

Surf Life Saving operations team also responded to over 37 emergency call outs and incidents and eight community rip demonstrations were conducted.

EXERCISING YOUR GREY CELLS



Here are the 40 thieves. Where is Ali Barba?



MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room



STATE WIDE WATCH

DISABLED YACHT MILES OFFSHORE



Volunteers from Marine Rescue Port Stephens responded to a late-night call for assistance after a 12–15 metre yacht lost steerage between Seal Rocks and Broughton Island while transiting from Lord Howe Island in early December.

Radio Operators at Marine Rescue Sydney took the initial call from the skipper of the disabled vessel before transferring communications to volunteers at Marine Rescue Port Stephens.

Marine Rescue NSW Inspector Jane Shirriff said the skipper of the yacht suffered an eye injury while attempting to fix the issue.

"PS 31 reached the disabled vessel, which was seven nautical miles (13km) north of Broughton Island and six nautical miles (11km) offshore," said Ms Shirriff.

"They checked the welfare of the crew on board the yacht before securing a tow line and heading for Port Stephens.

"It was quite uncomfortable offshore, with 15–20 knot south-easterly winds and a 1.5–2 metre swell.

OZ RESCUE BOAT CHAMPIONSHIPS



Volunteers from Marine Rescue Middle Harbour, Shoalhaven, Cottage Point and Hawkesbury recently took part in the Australasian Rescue Boat Challenge at Penrith. Marine Rescue NSW collected three awards.

HAWKESBURY UC BURGE PRAISED



Hawkesbury Unit Commander **Guy Burge** has been praised by the Commissioner in this year's Annual Report for his work during the Marine Rescue Flood Rescue Operation in Lismore after Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

"The sound of the wind and rain was deafening," said Burge, adding the emotional scars in the community from past floods was still raw.

\$75,000 BENDIGO BANK GRANT



The Jervis Bay boating community will benefit greatly from the support of Bendigo Bank Community Bank Sanctuary Point and Districts, with a \$75,000 grant to assist the dedicated volunteers at Marine Rescue Jervis Bay.

Marine Rescue Jervis Bay Deputy Unit Commander, **Brad Kilpatrick**, said the financial support would be distributed evenly over three years.

He said the funding would go towards maintaining the unit's two rescue boats, Jervis Bay 41 and Jervis Bay 20, which require servicing multiple times a year, as well as covering fuel costs for the boats and the two rescue watercraft (jet skis) stationed at Huskisson.

I run like the winded.



Thanks to our Major Supporters



FAVOURITE PHOTOS



Central Coast ferries 'Sorrento and Saratoga', on their mooring, framed by a single lightning strike.
(Davistown waterfront - Central Coast - NSW)

Pic: glenn-cameron.com

COASTAL PATROL *Memories*



THE LAST LAUGH



January						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	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	

March						
M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15

DUTY ROSTER 2026

NOTICE BOARD

Your 2024-26 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

PR, Marketing & Fundraising : David Wicks

MARINE RESCUE NSW BRISBANE WATER
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Members contributions welcome.

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NEXT UNIT MEETING:

**14th FEBRUARY 2026 preceded by
Radio Operations meeting**