



CENTACO NEWS

For Members & Friends of Marine Rescue Brisbane Water



February / March 2026

year for each person we sign up. If we sign up 100 contributors.... \$26000 / year. Hopefully we can reach 200 contributors at least



The two major projects we are focussing on this year are the slipway and the garage. Hopefully we can navigate through the minefield of procedures to see the garage underway.

There are also two projects that we hoped to have completed from last year, that is the stairs from the deck to the slipway and the kitchenette. Work on both projects will commence soon.



From Unit Commander, Ian Morrow ESM:





By the time this is published I will have returned from my three week time off feeling refreshed and ready to get into the tasks for 2026.

With the busiest period now behind us we can settle down to some earnest training, get Marine Drills underway or completed and work towards completing training requirements for ratings.

We were delighted to be welcomed into the Elanora Hotel for our second Friday night raffles venue. These raffles will be conducted by a smaller dedicated group on a weekly basis who live nearby (myself included). Hopefully it will be as successful as Ettalong and we thank The "Ellie" and Robinson Family Butcher East Gosford, who will be supplying the meat packs. Keep an eye out on the big screen outside the Ellie for our logo and advertising of the raffles. Our other fund raising endeavour is the "Coffee Club" which is already reaping small but regular dividends. The maths is simple; \$5.00 per week x 52 = \$260 per



MRBW OPERATION PERFORMANCE

	Dec 165 Log Ons Jan 191 Log Ons		Dec 25 Incidents Jan 26 Incidents
	Dec 409 POB Jan 494 POB		Dec 17 Transfers Jan 20 Transfers

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LOG ON LOG OFF

With the FREE Marine Rescue NSW App
or VHF Ch 16



Deputy Unit Commander (Admin)

Report by Tony Long



It has been a busy month or so since the Christmas/New Year period with the completion of the memorial at the front of the base. A wonderful area to sit and pay our respects to those who have served and gone before us. Bravo Zulu again to those who contributed to the cause.



As mentioned at the last Unit Meeting we are planning to rebuild the BBQ area on the opposite corner to the memorial. The style and plan will be very similar to the old BBQ area and I hope to have the laying of the concrete in the coming month/s. Still seeking volunteers who may have the relevant skill set to join the team in its future construction. Please let **Kevin Sullivan** or myself if you wish to help.

A working group has been formed and held its first meeting regarding the future of the slipway at the base. The group is currently researching options and will over time produce some recommendations for consideration. A big thank you to **Paul Brierley** and **Suzanne Portefaix** for facilitating the working group.

Expressions of Interest that have previously circulated for positions within the administration office still remain and we welcome anyone who may wish to assist in the area of Assistant Treasurer and fundraising in particular.

We are still looking for volunteers for *Bunnings* on the Public Holiday Monday of the Anzac Long Weekend (Monday, April 27). If you can make it please let me know.

The Coffee Club has been rolled out about a month now and we have just received banners and flyers that will be distributed across the unit during watches. I encourage everyone to take some brochures and hand them out to your friends and members of the community. We hope to target the boat ramps, fishing clubs, boat owners to sign up and donate weekly to boost the operating budget for the unit. As I said to the Watch Officers in a recent email:

In simple math, if each of our 130 members found ONE person each to donate \$5 per week we would generate \$33,800.00 per annum. Imagine if each of our members found 5 individuals to donate that would increase to \$169,000 per annum.

Thanks again to those members who regularly put their hands up to assist in these fundraising activities, your participation is critical to allow us to continue as a viable unit.



Administration

Report by Chris Hartcher



Radio operators and others who visit the radio room will see our new pair of binoculars and tripod. Currently they are standing on the Incident Controller's desk, but they can be moved to another location if required.

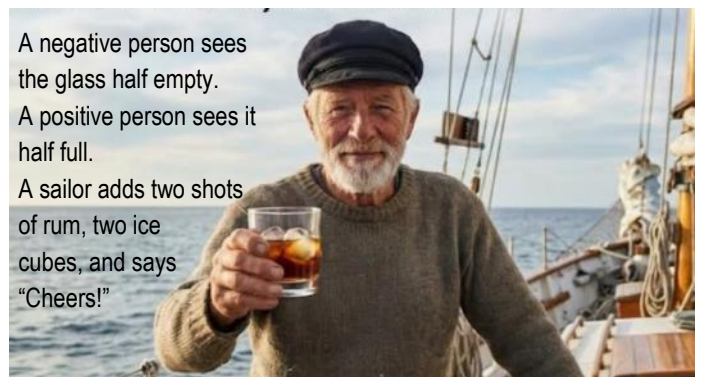
The binoculars have a 10x magnification, with a 30x zoom, so they give a good view of objects in our area. The Tripod has extendable legs, and an adjustable centre post to allow the binocular height to be adjusted to suit any viewer. Please try them out but return them to the radio room when you are finished.

Crew members in the audience will soon be starting (or have started already) on this year's round of Marine Drills. You will probably remember the problems last year with trying to collect Vessel Master signatures on the completed forms.

To overcome this problem, I have designed the new on-line Marine Drills form to accept digitised Vessel Master signatures.

If you are a VM (or an RWC Operator) and want to take part in this initiative, you can sign the blank signature forms on the watch clipboards in the Operations area of the Crew Room.

If you are happy to have your signature digitised, I can assure you that it will be held securely and only used for the proposed process.



A negative person sees the glass half empty.

A positive person sees it half full.

A sailor adds two shots

of rum, two ice cubes, and says "Cheers!"

Thanks to our Major Supporters





Training Report by Bob Gilbody



Christmas/New Year season now over, we are starting to get back to our mission.

Since the start of January, Training have completed two Radio Operational Assessments, congratulations go out to **Rebecca Fenton** and **Heather Bowes** both very strong and competent in their assessments.



Geoff Hawes completed his Watch Officer refresher and proved that it's like riding a bike, you just get back on.

Not only with Brisbane Water but we have completed two Watch Officer Assessments at Port Stephens and one at Lake Macquarie with a successful result to all candidates.



Our Trainers have been kept busy with conducting a First Aid Course, SROCP Course and Fight Fire & Sea Survival with our next First Aid Course scheduled for 16 May.

General Boat Licence Course for 8 persons was also conducted by **Jane** and **Raymond Lewis** not only enhancing our profile with the public but also a great fund raising effort. Our next course is scheduled for 12 April. Our thanks go out to **David Golding** and **David (Scoop) Wicks** for the promotion of this course.



It is hoped that our trainees are now reaching a stage where Operational Assessments can be conducted with some trainees being in training for 12 months. It is time to push forward.

Bob Gilbody

A PICTURE IS WORTH 1,000 WORDS.



PLEASE TAKE SOME DURING YOUR WATCH SO WE CAN USE ON FACEBOOK & IN THE NEWSLETTER!



Safety Alert Report by Roger Graham



Safety Alert: 26/001- Doors to be Lashed Open

The following procedure will be required.

Incident Summary

Not too long ago one of the crew had a potentially serious fall from the unlatched door of a vessel. The crewperson was walking along the gunnel returning from the front of the vessel. He stepped on the door which was in the closed position but not latched. He fell and sustained nasty lacerations that had him in pain for weeks. It could have been much worse.

Immediate Actions

The doors of either vessel when open must be tied back with the provided rope tail. Doors left unattended are either open and tied back or closed and fully latched, there is not an in-between. The rope tail is to be clove hitched to the top rail of the door to ensure it remains open.



Tuck the longer rope tail just behind the locker to secure it from getting in the way of other operations.

Comments

• This is a wider human factors issue. Get into the practice of doing things consistently. Even if the boat is in the dock, lash it open or ensure it is latched shut.

For further information, please contact:

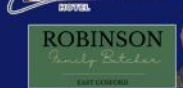
- Marine Rescue WHS Officer:
whs.brisbanewater@marinerescuensw.com.au
- Your Watch Coordinator

- Roger Graham

Three \$100 Meat Trays to be won EVERY FRIDAY from 5pm

at *Janora* in support of

Special Thanks to:



ALL MONEY RAISED STAYS HERE ON THE CENTRAL COAST AND GOES TOWARDS SAVING LIVES ON OUR LOCAL WATERWAYS

Volunteers saving lives on the water

Introducing Marine Rescue Brisbane Water Foundation Partners:





Membership Report by Geoff Hawes



Membership Status Report

Purpose of the Report for All Members

This report provides an overview of the current membership status for all members within MRBW Unit. It aims to facilitate effective management, enable targeted communication, and Training support.

Purpose of the Report

- To monitor active, inactive, and pending memberships
- To support decision-making processes related to member engagement and retention

Key Components of the Report

Membership Status

- Active: 133 Members currently eligible to participate in the units activities
- Inactive: 12 Members who have not engaged or participated within a defined period
- Pending: 2 New members awaiting approval or activate

The primary goal of this report is to assist management in understanding the composition and trends of the membership base. It enables decision-makers to identify areas for improvement, tailor communication and training strategies, as well as enhancing member retention efforts.

Conclusion

Regularly updating and reviewing the membership status report is essential for maintaining a healthy and engaged membership base. It provides valuable insights that help this base adapt to changing member needs, ultimately contributing to sustained growth and success.



Rescue Water Craft Report by Mitch Giles



I'm sad to report that we have received **Steve Maneschi's** resignation. I'd like to acknowledge not only Steve's dedication to our RWC team helping with training, helping to get the skis to Lake Macquarie for their services, going through all of the new learning material for Head Office.

He was also very dedicated to Gold watch and also fundraising activities, so massive thank you to Steve, you certainly will be missed.



Fund Raising Report by David Wicks



When I resigned from fund-raising on March 2, I told Ian I'd continue with the newsletter, marketing and Facebook.



Circumstances, however, have changed and I can no longer meet those obligations. So I am applying for 6 months leave of absence. Before I go, I'd like to share with you some high points from the past 2.5 years.

Marketing: When I joined, Ian tasked me with raising the level of awareness of MRBW throughout the community. Achieved.

Fundraising: When I went out, cap in hand, seeking consolation prizes of dinner and gift vouchers for our 2024 raffle, one business asked if we had an authority to raise funds. I gave her the number, she smiled and said "I think we can do something". A few months later that 'something' turned up as a donation for \$25,000 from the **Grange Hotel** at Wyoming. Thank you, **Ainslie**.

When asked to take over the **2024 raffles** at the halfway point, only \$20,000 worth of tickets had been sold. Calling on support from **Steven Constantine** and **Max Landells**, the three of us steered sales upwards by \$45,000 in 8 weeks, topping \$65,000. Of course, the people writing names and phone numbers on the tickets helped as well. Even if some developed writer's cramp.

The **Centaco newsletter** has become an excellent marketing tool for our Unit, and is distributed to more than 500 members, associates, business partners, potential sponsors, other Units, media and radio club members.

Website looks much more professional and is easier to navigate. Thanks Shane.

Facebook: During a 60-day period in Nov-Dec our FB page achieved more than 308,000 views. Outstanding.

Friday night raffles. When the majority of Unit members voted in support of a second weekly raffle, and after a few false leads, I approached the **Elanora Hotel**. Manager **Damien** was very supportive and, following a combined think tank, a starting date was agreed. First night saw a gross of around \$1,800 for three meat trays, totalling \$2,770 for the two pubs that night. Rewarding!

And it's 'Goodnight' from him: To my genuine MRBW friends, I look forward to even longer lunches in months to come. To those who have gone out of their way to help and support my fundraising efforts, I am immensely grateful.

Thank you, and see you in six months!

Thanks to our Major Supporters





Dates to Remember



Members of the Month & Birthdays



TRAINING:

Upcoming training sessions are:

2026 Boat Licence Courses.

- 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.

FUTURE FUNDRAISING & EVENTS:

- Fri Mar 20 Meat Tray Raffles @ The Elanora from 4.30
- Fri Mar 27 Meat Tray Raffles @ The Ettalong - Green Watch
- Thur Apr 2 Easter Raffles @ The Elanora
- Easter Friday Meat Tray Raffles @ The Ettalong
- Sun Apr 5 Daylight Savings ends
- Fri Apr 10 Coffee Club Promotion Kincumber Village 8.30-4.30
- Fri Apr 17 Meat Tray Raffles @ The Elanora from 4.00
- Sat Apr 11 Coffee Club Promotion Kincumber Village 8.30-4.30
- Fri Apr 17 Meat Tray Raffles @ The Elanora from 4.00
- Fri Apr 24 Meat Tray Raffles @ The Elanora from 4.00
- Sat Apr 25 Anzac Day March @ Woy Woy
- Mon Apr 27 Bunnings West Gosford BBQ - Liaise with DUCA
- Fri May 1 Meat Tray Raffles @ The Elanora from 4.00
- Fri May 8 Meat Tray Raffles @ The Elanora from 4.00
- Fri May 15 Meat Tray Raffles @ The Elanora from 4.00

JANUARY

KEVIN SULLIVAN

FEBRUARY

BOB KNOWLES

PETER LOUIE

ANDREW MCKELLAR

ROB MURRAY

For the first time in living memory, FIVE Marine Rescue Brisbane Water volunteers have been awarded Member of the Month status.

Announcing the selection at the February unit meeting, Unit Commander Ian Morrow highly praised the efforts of the five members who worked in 41-degree heat on a Saturday in December to position the huge sandstone blocks as work on our memorial began.

Their hard work continued through a hot December and January. BZ guys - fantastic effort - you've earned the gratitude of all members.



MEMBERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

MARCH & APRIL:

Paul Degeling, John Greenwood, Will Shaddock, Michael Kerr, Bill Weekes, Skye Stringer, Stephen Neander, Heather Bowes, Ian Liles, Rebecca McNeill, Jack Bree, Sally Allen, Alf Rapisarda, Lee Williams, Mark Andrew, Vic McCutcheon, Kevin Sullivan, David Wicks, Neil Bennett, Steve Brown, Chris Thomas, Anthony McGinley, Lyn Scales, Rob Zwart



I have a cat named Minton. When it chews my shuttlecock, I say "Bad Minton".

Thanks to our Major Supporters





Watch REPORTS



GOLD WATCH: January 3 & 4, 2026

First up a training session for Coxswain for **Mal Sinclair**, Parallel search patters, ably assisted by CoxR trainees **David Stefani**, **Regan Mitchell** and **Alex Constantine** and crew. After lunch Max conducted training for **Bob Sullivan** in his efforts to regain his ratings and **Steve Sai Louie** took a number of crew on a familiarisation of Lintern, Cockle Channels and the Kincumber Broadwater. At 1700 we conducted a night exercise including 10 participants, 4 new trainees, 4 CoxR aspirants 1 Cox in training and 1 Cox. The exercise was basic night work and a journey around the unlit back channels. All completed without incident. Apart from that an uneventful day. Sunday started with a training exercise in BW21 to Maitland Bay and return and another exercise on BW22 in local waters. This exercise was interrupted by a request for assistance from a bow rider with 4 POB requiring a tow from Point Frederick to Gosford wharf which was completed without incident. At 1245 just as the vessels were returning for lunch the inevitable happened, 2 callouts. One to a TV at Half Tide Rocks needing a tow to Blackwall, the other a bow rider off Saratoga requiring a tow to Gosford. BW21 dispatched to Half Tide in company with BW10. BW22 to Saratoga. These jobs completed, all 3 vessels required refuelling so off to Koolewong, returning just before the violent storm. A late lunch for a weary crew.

Brendon Weston

GOLD WATCH: January 31 & February 1, 2026

Base opened by **Mead** and **Banjevic**. Morning commenced with training exercise involving trainees **Landis** and **Rigon**. Meantime remainder of watch involved in placing BW21 on cradle for service on a less than favourable tide. After lunch BW22 was dispatched on a training and familiarisation trip to Iron Ladder. Including training on Manoeuvring on engines only and docking. Trainees **Rob Rigon**, **Rob Landis** and **Lee Williams**.

A callout at 1830 was called off in transit.

Sunday commenced with a TV in distress in Paddy's. The 3.7M tinny with 1POB was taken in tow and delivered safely to Davistown. BW22 was then utilised to complete a pore assessment for Mal Sinclair's upcoming Coxn assessment. Subsequently 22 was dispatched to contact training in navigation for **Bill Weekes** and familiarisation for **Celeste Williams**.

Naturally, right on lunchtime a call came in re a 9M yacht aground near Ettalong Beach Wharf in a falling tide and with a strong southerly blowing. BW22 dispatched with Steve Sai Louie in charge, and said yacht taken in tow and safely placed on a mooring.

Remainder of day on onshore training duties.

Brendon Weston

RED WATCH: January 10 & 11, 2026

The weekend started off relatively quietly, no assists on the Saturday. After a quick refuel of BW21, the rest of the day was taken up with radio and crew training and kicking off Marine Drills for 2026.

A call from a MOP to report a pontoon adrift on the Western side of the narrows, too shallow for our vessels, Maritime notified.

Sunday started with a call for a 30ft Flybridge cruiser aground at Ettalong, Maritime to the rescue successfully refloating the vessel.



Early afternoon a wind surfer was in difficulty at Half Tide Rocks clinging to the Port Mark. Exhausted, he was taken onboard and escorted to shore.

Alan Hardy

RED WATCH: February 7 & 8, 2026

The weekend started early with a call for assistance Friday evening with a report a 30ft sailing vessel was adrift between Koolewong and Green Point. BW21 undertook an extensive search but nothing was found. A second call then came in to assist a PWC stranded at Daley's Point, which was cancelled shortly thereafter, managing to self assist.



The weekend proper kicked-off with over 500 vessels logged on state wide. Shortly after refuelling both RV's we had a photo shoot with **David Wicks** for some publicity as well as a visit from **Malcolm Poole** from Coast FM. Then a quick trip to Kariong to put BW22's trailer back in storage. The rest of the morning was spent training and getting **Alan Hargreaves** and **Joanne Lowth** ready for upcoming operational assessments.

The afternoon we had a number of calls for assistance, including, a ski boat in Waterfall bay, a bowrider at Point Fredrick with 4 adults & 6 children requiring a tow to Gosford and an overdue vessel that had been out to the Terrigal FAD and stopped for a dip at Lobster Beach forgetting to Logg Off.

With a change in the weather on Sunday very few boats out with no calls for assistance. The day was spend training, continuing on with marine drills and keeping a look out for the 27 Etchells during the State titles hosted by the Gosford Sailing Club. *Alan Hardy*



Don't spill it.



Watch REPORTS



MID WEEK WATCH: Jan - Feb, 2026

2026 has seen the return to active duty by **Jo Coffey & Doug Sanger** which is wonderful. Both of them bring lots of experience & have plugged a couple of gaps in the roster. So it's great that they've returned.

The trainees are making steady progress & hopefully will be ready for assessment in the not too distant future.

Thank you again to the training team who are doing a marvellous job in providing training on the Sunday's of Blue and Green Watches, plus Friday training sessions as well. This accelerates the progress of our trainees & helps them not only know what to do & when, but also why we do what we do & the order in which tasks need to be performed. A reminder that all radio operators are invited to attend the weekend training.

I'd like to quickly address a question that I was asked recently, which was: At what time should we start an incident report.

The answer is as soon as we have a request for assistance. If another unit ends up responding to the incident, then we simply transfer the incident report to the appropriate MR radio base. Likewise, if the job gets cancelled, all we have to do is make a note of that fact in the incident summary.

It's also a good idea to attempt to contact vessels just before they are due to log off by sending them a reminder that they are about to go overdue & check if they wish to extend their log off time or are ready to log off now.

Finally, I'd like to thank **Chrissy Lowe** for filling in for me while I was away & remind you that she's officially my offside, so if you can't get me, then I know that she'll assist you if possible.

Sally

BLUE WATCH: January 17 & 18, 2026

Atrocious weather meant we were very quiet on Saturday, plenty of radio training taking place and started Marine Drills. No call outs.

Beautiful day in paradise again on Sunday. Radio training with Paul and Suzanne was well attended, abysmal weather so more Marine Drills. Skeleton crew Sunday afternoon but no callouts.

BLUE WATCH: February 14 & 15, 2026

No report received, but Meat Tray Raffles over \$1,000



MONDAY - FRIDAY

Weekly Special Nights

- Monday - Rump with chips & salad \$18
- Tuesday - Schnitzel with chips & salad \$16
- Wednesday - Sirloin with chips & salad \$18
- Thursday - Ribs with chips & slaw \$18
- Friday - New specials board released



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.

Thanks to our Major Supporters





Watch REPORTS



GREEN WATCH: January 24, 25 & 26, 2026

No report received but Oz Day weekend covered in Making Waves.

GREEN WATCH: February 21 & 22, 2026

Saturday, BW21 and BW22 conducted a training exercise involving the radio and crew trainees familiarising themselves with all the public wharves and boat ramps in Brisbane Water. Both RWCs were also involved.



Sunday. The local knowledge exercise continued.

During the afternoon, Terrigal was tasked to assist a 20 ft half cabin cruiser out of fuel 8 NM east of Terrigal. Rescue on going at time of report handed over to MR Sydney.



Brooke Heyward

GOLD WATCH: February 28 & March 1, 2026

Saturday training. No assists. Focus on training for Landis, Sinclair, Rigon.

Sunday. Training continues. BW22 assisted a catamaran onto its mooring after engine failure. Skipper hailed BW22 which was training in Caroline Bay.

Visit to Gosford wharf in company of Council Ranger. Collected \$100 in wharf fees in a hostile environment.

BW21 sent to gates to shadow a large motor cruiser making way but with reported engine issue. At Lobster Beach they encountered a disabled jet ski with adult and child on board. After consulting with ZDOM, BW21 diverted from the shadow and assisted the jet ski with 3 POBs moved to the RV for the trip to Blackwall Boat Ramp.

BW22 was tasked to shadow the cruiser but was not required as cruiser had already reached Anderson's Boatshed.



Paul Brierley

Enjoy your jet ski this weekend:

Wear a lifejacket.
Fill up the petrol tank.
Take plenty of water.
Stick to the speed limits.
Log On with the free Marine Rescue NSW app.
If your day out doesn't go to plan contact Marine Rescue NSW via VHF Ch 16 or phone the Brisbane Water base for help.

Professional models

Thank God it's FRIDAY !

5 x \$100 Quality Meat Trays Must Be Won Every Friday Night !

3 at *Elanora* HOTEL 2 at *THE Ettalong*

with special thanks to:

ROBINSON Family Butcher EAST GOSFORD

B&M QUALITY MEATS UMINA

ALL MONEY RAISED STAYS ON THE CENTRAL COAST AND GOES TOWARDS SAVING LIVES ON OUR LOCAL WATERWAYS

Marine Rescue Brisbane Water
Volunteers saving lives on the water

ABN 98 138 078 092 NSW Authority to raise funds CFN 21153

* Raffles not conducted on Easter Friday



MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room

UNIT MOVERS 'n' SHAKERS



Some movers 'n' shakers were recognised at the last Marine Rescue Brisbane Water Unit Meeting.

Congratulated by Unit Commander **Ian Morrow** were **Rebecca Fenton** and **Heather Bowes**, who have both achieved MRRO rankings, while **Geoff Hawes** successfully passed his skill refresher MRWO.

Missing in action was **Brent Malcolm**, who achieved his MR Master.

BOAT LICENCE COURSE



Raymond and Jane Lewis conducted the February Boat Licence course with a good attendance of budding skippers.

The next course will be held at the Point Clare base on Sunday April 12. Bookings are now being accepted.

Volunteer Profile

HEATHER BOWES



Picture this... "Coming back through Brisbane Water after my first patrol. The water was glassy, the breeze was light, and the sky had turned that deep orange you only get on a summer evening. The crew were relaxed and laughing amongst themselves."

Reflections of 12-month Marine Rescue Brisbane Water volunteer, Heather Bowes, with a moment she admits often revisiting.

"It was a special moment" said Heather, revealing she discovered the "vibrant, colourful world hiding beneath that quiet, unsuspecting surface you see from land" when she learnt to SCUBA and freedive.

Heather – in her mid-30s - always had a "deep connection" to the ocean and was actively looking for a way to give back to the community.

Marine Rescue felt like the perfect fit.

She is now a Marine Rescue Radio Operator and trainee crew, when not working full time in research strategy and grant funding.

Heather praises the many benefits to volunteering.

"It gives you the chance to give back to your community while gaining new skills and perspectives.

"For me, one of the greatest benefits is the friendships you form with people from walks of life you might never otherwise cross paths with," she added.



Thanks to our Major Supporters





MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room



VOLUNTEER GROUP SUPPORT



Volunteer and not-for-profit organisations are the backbone of a successful community.

When groups work together to assist each other, it creates a warmth and respect, often ignored or overlooked in big business.

Recently, members of Gosford Men's Shed helped Marine Rescue Brisbane Water with several projects.

These include the servicing of the Unit's standby generator and the building of a trailer trolley to help manoeuvre bulky items around the base.

The Men's Shed also took a lead role in the creation of the memorial commemorating past members of the Point Clare base, including the refurbishing of the memorial anchor and steel bands for memorial name plates that decorate the 2-metre-high sandstone structure.

Community groups helping each other make the community much stronger, according to Gosford Men's Shed president, **Larry Lloyd**.

"A few years ago, all the Men's Sheds on the Coast started to work together on safety issues to make each unit more secure and stronger, and from that, we've openly supported other community groups from the Peninsula to Lake Haven", said Larry.

Most members are adept at creating wooden toys for various organisations, including Narara and Kariang Fire Brigades, and the group is very proud that they've provided Gosford Hospital with over 1,000 hand-crafted toys during 2025. They also actively support Elsie's Retreat, the palliative care unit at the local hospital and the Cancer Day Care Clinic.

Marine Rescue Brisbane Water Unit Commander **Ian Morrow** praised the camaraderie between the various community volunteer groups on the Coast.

"It is wonderful to have the benefit of all the volunteer organisations throughout the region," said the Unit Commander.

"Our thanks to Gosford Men's shed for the work they do, the experience and quality workmanship they apply to the projects they undertake."

BIRTHDAY BOY TAKES THE CAKE



Birthday Boy and long term member, Ian Leafe enjoying the spoils of a recent birthday drink and the hospitality of staff at East Gosford's Elanora Hotel !

Join our Marine Rescue



Coffee Club

For your donation of \$5 a week - the cost of a cup of coffee - Marine Rescue Brisbane Water can help cover:

Vessel operating costs, including fuel, repairs, servicing and maintenance.

Base operating costs, including overheads, equipment replacement, community outreach programmes.

Training costs, including vessel operations, radio, first aid and resuscitation, fire and sea survival.

Help us maintain our volunteer services by making a weekly Tax Deductable \$5 donation directly to Marine Rescue Brisbane Water using this QR code:



Marine Rescue Brisbane Water: (02) 4337 9600

Volunteers saving lives on the water



MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room



REGIONAL FF & SS AT NEWCASTLE



About a dozen Marine Rescue volunteers were put through the challenging Fire Fighting and Sea Survival training programme at Newcastle in late February.

The course was developed by the Brisbane Water training team of **Paul Broad and Bob Gilbody**.



The volunteers came from several units, stretching from Point Clare to Port Stephens, gathering at the Stockton based unit of Marine Rescue Newcastle.

Course trainer, Bob Gilbody, said the eleven volunteers included one woman, "all performing admirably."

The programme featured firefighting, sea survival and flare training, the kind of intense, hands-on preparation that ensures every Marine Rescue team is ready for anything out on the water.



DREDGING TUGGERAH LAKE



Long awaited dredging works started last month at Tuggerah Lake, one of the largest allocations to dredging in the region's history.

Council allocated \$1.2M from its 2025-2026 Budget toward dredging the lake, after years of inaction and an increased number of flood events in recent years.

Approximately 25,000 cubic metres of sand, or 40,000 tonnes will be dredged to mitigate flooding and improve waterflow, with the sand being placed at The Entrance North for coastal erosion protection.

As part of the works, Council will also establish a pilot channel for proactive flood mitigation, should any periods of wet weather arise in months to come.



The 2026 dredging program will aim to realign the current channel configuration by cutting a main channel from northwest to southeast through the sand shoals to reduce velocity in the ebb channel that is eroding the northern shoreline.

Council sought tenders via an open process last October and the chosen tenderer was selected on the recommendation of the evaluation panel, based on competitive pricing, proven experience and capability. The tenderer has completed past similar projects for local councils in South Sydney and for Transport for NSW up north.

While we were traveling through Wales, we stopped for lunch at Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch.

I asked the waitress, "Could you settle an argument for us. Can you pronounce where we are, very slowly?"

The waitress replied, "Burr gerr King!"



Thanks to our Major Supporters





MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room



JANUARY CALL-OUTS & RESPONSES



Sinking vessels, numerous missing person searches, EPIRB activations and 19 medical emergencies, including cardiac arrests, made up a wide range of incidents volunteers from Marine Rescue NSW responded to during January.

The volunteers were in high demand, completing 668 search-and-rescue missions across the state, including 162 emergency responses and the safe return of 1,644 people to shore.

The local breakdown of those figures reveals 181 search and rescue missions were conducted in the Central Coast and Hunter division, including 37 emergency responses with 433 people safely returned to shore.

Lake Macquarie had the highest number of rescue missions – 77 - followed by Port Stephens with 34 and Brisbane Water with 28.

Crews also carried out more than 50 assists to grounded vessels statewide, which Marine Rescue Acting Deputy Commissioner **Dan Dummer** said were largely avoidable.



“Boaters must be aware of tides, their surrounding environment and prevailing conditions,” he said, adding if boating in an unfamiliar area, do your preparation, consult local charts and speak with the nearest Marine Rescue NSW unit before launching.

Dummer also praised the Service’s radio operators for their vital behind-the-scenes work.

“Our radio operators are the backbone of Marine Rescue NSW. Their skill and knowledge are invaluable in assisting boaters on the state’s waterways,” he said. During January, Marine Rescue NSW radio operators managed almost 27,000 calls and monitored 33,646 people on board vessels that had Logged On.

“Boaters can Log On 24/7 via the free Marine Rescue NSW app or on VHF Channel 16. Logging On allows our skilled volunteers to monitor a vessel’s safe return, and if a boater becomes overdue, a search can be initiated,” the Acting Deputy Commissioner said.

Pic: Marine Rescue Middle Harbour assists a yacht on Sydney Harbour

FEBRUARY CALL-OUTS & RESPONSES

Volunteer crews from Marine Rescue NSW completed 404 search and rescue missions across the state in February, including 140 emergency responses, safely returning 847 people to shore.

The February total brings the number of missions performed over summer (December to February) to almost 1,700, highlighting the sustained demand placed on volunteers during the peak summer period. In February, Central Coast/Hunter carried out 121 search & rescue missions including 36 emergency responses with 221 people safely returned to shore across all 8 local units. The main three were Lake Macquarie 61, Brisbane Water 17, Lemon Tree Passage 13.

FUEL-HARDY



Running low of fuel is one of the top reasons boaters end up needing assistance on the water.

That’s why Marine Rescue Brisbane Water are big believers in the Rule of 3...

One third of your fuel to head out

One third to get you back

One third tucked away for the unexpected

A simple rule, but it can save you hassle, worry, and a call for help you didn’t plan on making.





MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room



BUSY AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND FOR MRBW



It was another busy holiday long weekend for the volunteers of Marine Rescue Brisbane Water, albeit with some missions that probably needn't have happened.

From the usual "engine won't start" calls, and "I've run out of fuel 50 metres from the shore", to a jet ski running aground on a sandbar off Wagstaffe and a search for a 19' runabout skippered by a fellow who simply forgot to log off.

More than 60 per cent of Marine Rescue NSW search and rescue missions are in response to lack of fuel, flat battery or engine issues, which are largely preventable.

Boaters are urged to prepare their vessels and act responsibly. Before heading out, make sure your vessel is ready.

Check your engine and battery are in good working order. Carry enough fuel for your trip, plus extra in reserve.

Ensure you have the correct safety equipment on board, and that you know how to use it.

Make sure everyone on board is wearing a lifejacket, and remember to Log On with Marine Rescue NSW via VHF Channel 16 or the free Marine Rescue NSW app before you hit the water.

And please Log Off when you return.

Pics: Green Watch

ANDREWS HAS THE ANSWERS

Marine Rescue NSW Board has appointed Mr Todd Andrews as the new Commissioner.

Following a rigorous external recruitment program, the Board sought a leader who could guide Marine Rescue NSW into the future while continuing to uphold the professionalism and capability achieved to date.

Todd's extensive executive experience, combined with his deep understanding of Marine Rescue NSW, made him a standout candidate for the role and the Board unanimously agreed to appoint Todd as Commissioner.

After a successful career in finance and international business, Todd joined Marine Rescue NSW in 2018 as Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary. He was appointed Deputy Commissioner, Corporate Services in September 2021 and has served as Acting Commissioner since September 2025.



PHD SCHOLARSHIP LINKED TO HAWKESBURY CANOE CLASSIC

Thanks to the outstanding fundraising efforts of the 2025 Hawkesbury Canoe Classic community, Arrow Foundation has proudly announced the awarding of an additional PhD scholarship this year to an exceptional young researcher: **Katerina Terolli**.

Katerina, a PhD student at the University of Melbourne, is undertaking pioneering research that may one day provide safer, more personalised treatment options for people living with germline GATA2 mutations - a condition that significantly increases the risk of bone marrow failure and leukaemia.

Through this scholarship, Katerina will receive \$25,000 over 2.5 years, supplementing her Australian Government Research Training Program stipend and easing the financial pressure of full-time research. This support is made possible entirely by the generosity and dedication of the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic paddlers, volunteers, donors and Marine Rescue Brisbane Water.



Thanks to our Major Supporters





MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room



RAINING OUTSIDE - TRAINING INSIDE



While intelligent boaters stayed off the water during the mid-January thunderstorms, training continued inside for Blue Watch under the auspices of Training Officers **Paul Broad** and **Bob Gilbody**.



Pics: Garry Owens

BOAT 'DISASTER' ON BRIS WATER



Training is a foregone conclusion when it comes to Marine Rescue. The volunteers from the Brisbane Water unit train every weekend and midweek as well, as do other bases up and down the coast.

Recently, an incident occurred on Brisbane Water when a boat exploded, throwing crew members across the deck and severely injuring several. MRBW were quick on the scene, extinguished the fire and administered first aid to the victims.

It was an exercise, put together by Training Officers Bob Gilbody and Paul Broad who later reported the incident gave new members excellent training experience and was a "perfect refresher" for the more senior members.



I finally got eight hours of sleep.

It took me three days.



MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room



HAWKESBURY COPS A HAMMERING

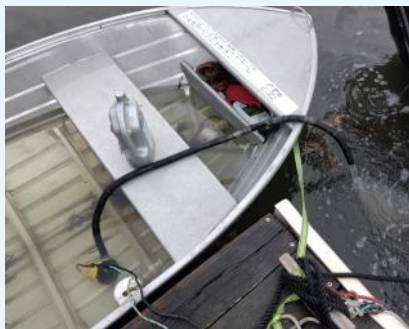


Hawkesbury River residents had a bit of a wild weekend mid-January as two dangerous storm cells blew in and then stopped over the lower Hawkesbury dumping about 300mm of rain.

Marine Rescue Hawkesbury says the district didn't lose power but

several trees came down, roads were flooded and Sunday morning locals woke to find a number of boats either about to sink or already under. Marine Rescue Hawkesbury were out on Saturday attending a medical incident on a boat and then back on the river early the next day with both crews attending to vessels that needed urgent pump outs. Several boats were saved just in time.

River dwellers depend heavily on their boats and the boats do get worked pretty hard so it's not surprising that sometimes vital equipment like bilge pumps and batteries fail just when you need them most. - MRHR FB



LAKE MAC SETS 2025 RECORD



The Lake Macquarie region has been identified as the waterway where boaters are most likely to need assistance in NSW as almost a third of Marine Rescue NSW units across the state experienced record demand last year.

Marine Rescue's Lake Macquarie unit performed more than 594 search and rescue missions, coming in ahead of the Marine Rescue Sydney, State Communications Centre on 493 during a busy year for the volunteer rescue organisation.

Volunteer crews performed 4,512 search and rescue missions across the state and safely returned almost 10,000 people to shore during 2025.

The five busiest Marine Rescue NSW units for search and rescue missions were: Lake Macquarie - 594, Sydney - 493, Botany Port Hacking - 396, Middle Harbour - 254 and Port Jackson - 243.

In the Central Coast / Hunter region, locations of highest demand were Lake Macquarie 594, Brisbane Water 235 and Port Stephens 234.

Marine Rescue Lemon Tree Passage set a new unit calendar year record with 99 missions surpassing 83 set in 2023. The Newcastle base set a new unit calendar year record with 77 missions surpassing 62 set in 2023, while Norah Head equalled its unit calendar year record of 18 missions first set in 2024. Marine Rescue Tuggerah Lakes set a new unit calendar year record with 93 missions surpassing 69 set in 2024.

Boaters should follow these steps to stay safe: Log On and Off with Marine Rescue NSW via VHF Channel 16 or use the free Marine Rescue NSW app available for iOS and Android devices. Ensure everyone on board is wearing a lifejacket. Check that your vessel's engine and battery are working. Carry enough fuel, including a reserve. Always check conditions and ensure required safety equipment is carried. *Pic: File*

Thanks to our Major Supporters





MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room



POLICE PATROLLING OVER SUMMER



This boating season, NSW Police are reminding the community to stay safe on the water, with large crowds flocking to boats, jet skis, fishing spots and swimming areas.

Marine Area Command will deploy all available resources to patrol waterways across NSW, with police and partner marine agencies conducting compliance checks and enforcement operations.

Officers will issue fines and lay charges for offences including failure to wear lifejackets, dangerous operation of boats or jet skis, licence breaches and other marine safety violations.

In December 2025 alone, Marine Area Command officers conducted 521 legal actions, issued 284 infringement notices, gave 249 cautions and laid 21 charges. Of these, 141 legal actions related to personal watercraft offences.

Police also took 62 marine safety-related legal actions involving people aged 16 years and under, including 21 jet ski-related offences.

During the month, officers conducted 925 breath tests and 64 drug tests, resulting in five legal actions.

They also carried out 1,818 vessel inspections, 1,397 fisheries inspections, and 24 compliance inspections of licensed charter vessels.

Marine Area Commander, Acting Superintendent **Phillip Malligan**, said most people did the right thing on the water but urged skippers and jet ski riders to remain vigilant.

“We’re urging anyone heading out on a boat or jet ski to slow down, stay alert and look out for others - one reckless move can put lives at risk,” Acting Superintendent Malligan said.

“Wear a lifejacket, check your gear and know your limits. These are simple steps that save lives every summer. Jet skis aren’t toys. Keep your distance from swimmers and other vessels.”

Acting Superintendent Malligan also reminded the public that alcohol and water do not mix, with random breath and drug testing continuing throughout the season.

He urged people fishing from boats or rock platforms to wear lifejackets, monitor weather conditions and heed marine warnings.

“Never turn your back on the ocean and always watch the waves,” he said.

THINGS GO BETTER WITH COKE



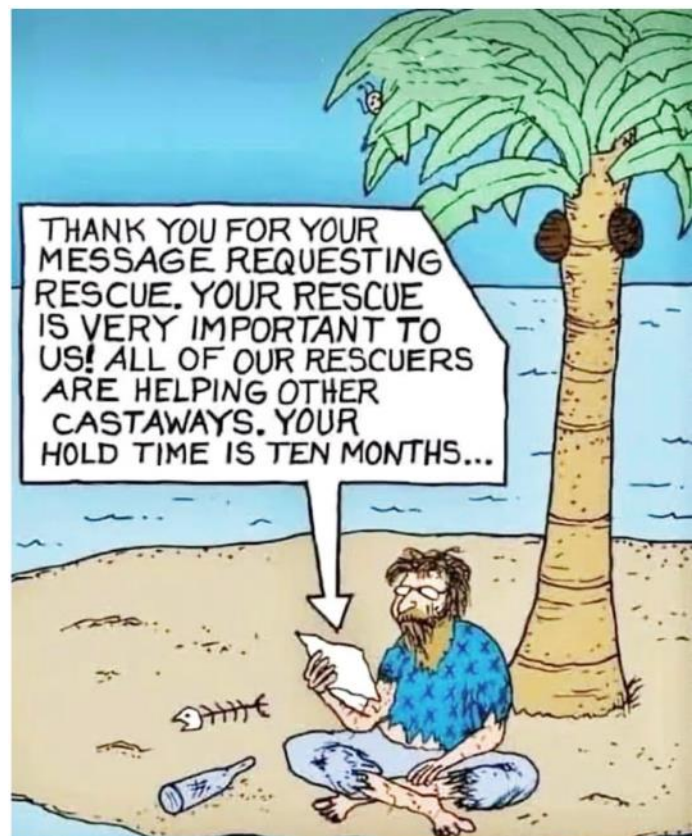
Marine Rescue Brisbane Water was recently presented with more than 3-dozen cases of Coca-Cola product through the generous *Coca-Cola in the Community* programme.

This initiative has been designed to support eligible community organisations who could benefit from the donation of product from the multi-national company.

Product includes the ever-popular *Coca-Cola*, *Sprite* lemonade, *Fanta* Orange, *Mount Franklin* water and the sugar-free alternatives, *Diet Coke* and *Coke Zero (No Sugar)*.

Thanks Coca-Cola.

Your donation will be put to good use!





BUSY START TO NEW YEAR FOR MARINE RESCUE BRISBANE WATER



The start of 2026 was a busy time for Marine Rescue Brisbane Water.

Assisting in the search following a boat capsize, crowd control on Brisbane Water as well as Sydney Harbour for the New Year's Eve fireworks, responding to several boats with engine troubles, and a vessel that ran aground in Paddy's Channel during the night created a strong demand for the voluntary organisation based at Point Clare.

MRBW radio operators came on duty on New Year's Day with two open incidents. Firstly, some visitors from the Southern Highlands to see Gosford's fireworks display on Brisbane Water discovered their boat had engine trouble.

They were assisted by Marine Rescue 'Fireworks Crew', but as the conditions were rough and an elderly person was on board, the boat was put on the Unit's Point Clare boat lift overnight.

Arrangements were made with the boat's owner the next morning for the vessel to be towed to Koolewong and then put back on the trailer for the return home.

The second boat ran aground on a mudflat in Paddy's channel during the night, but the two adults on board decided to wait up to six hours before the tide refloated the vessel.

A call for assistance from a boat with engine problems at Noonan Point shortly followed this. Unable to get the vessel going again, the crew of BW22 quickly attached a tow line, getting the vessel and crew safely back to the Lintern Street wharf.

Around midday, another vessel with a flat battery near Spike Milligan Bridge called for assistance. Unable to get the engine started with the Unit's new 'jump starter packs', BW22 was again to the rescue with a short tow to the Blackwall boat ramp.

Meanwhile, preparations were made and crew on-the-ready should Marine Rescue Brisbane Water be called upon to assist in a search

for a second day. The Terrigal ocean-going rescue boat TG30 was unavailable to assist as one motor was out of action.

As the conditions were not the best on the water, many boaters made the sensible decision to stay home and spend time with family and friends, or sleep off the night before, said Watch Officer **Alan Harvey**.

MRBW Unit Commander **Ian Morrow** says engine and battery issues, and running out of fuel, account for more than half of the incidents Marine Rescue NSW responds to.

"These are preventable issues," said Mr Morrow. "Boaters can easily reduce these types of incidents with better planning. Every safe trip starts before you hit the water." Skippers are urged to check their safety equipment and ensure it is in working order.

"Conditions can change quickly," Morrow said. "Assess, prepare and monitor every time you go out," said Morrow, before reminding skippers to always log on with Marine Rescue for the safety of themselves and their loved ones.

This summer, more than 130 dedicated Marine Rescue Brisbane Water volunteers are serving the Central Coast on rescue vessels and in radio rooms.

A WAIST OF TIME



Thanks to our Major Supporters





MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room



DONATION GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED



A family of three were enjoying their day cruising off Half Tide Rocks when the engine on their 20' Quintrex failed. Both rescue craft and a RWC (jetski) were dispatched to assist the target vessel. The tow back to Blackwall boat ramp was set through a difficult and busy waterway area, so response lights were used. The skipper was so thankful, he immediately offered a \$200 cash donation to the Brisbane Water Unit, which was gratefully accepted.

SPINAL INJURY CAUSES CONCERN



Two Marine Rescue Brisbane Water vessels BW22 and BW21 rushed to the assistance of a fishing boat crew member with suspected spinal injuries on Wed Jan 7 near Ettalong Jetty.

The boat's skipper said the crew member stumbled and fell after their craft hit a sudden wave. There were only two men on board the vessel. Another fishing boat was in close proximity and did what it could to assist until MRBW boats arrived. A call went out for a road ambulance to meet the rescue vessel at the Ettalong Wharf, which then liaised by supplying updates to the MR Base at Point Clare. A nearby police car also became involved.

Mid Wednesday afternoon, our old nemesis, a deceased battery, caused a call to rescue a family of 4 from Orange aboard a 20' open runabout that was stranded off Mackerel Beach across Pittwater from Palm Beach in the Greater Sydney coverage area. MRBW was assigned the job by the DZOM Jane Shirriff. Upon arrival, BW22 discovered it could not jump-start the target vessel and an agreement was reached to tow it to Newport. After successfully completing the tow, BW22 crew members detailed all the paperwork and returned home two-and-a-half hours later.

Pic: Lindsay Edgar

CRACKER OF A NIGHT



NYE 2025 Gosford Waterfront fireworks.

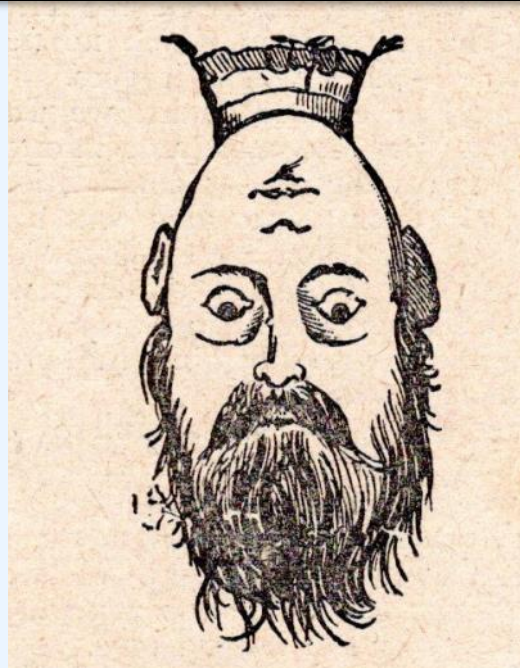
Image courtesy Terese Eisey Photography.

UC URGES "WEAR LIFE JACKETS"



During the wild surf conditions on New Year's Eve, Marine Rescue Brisbane Water was tasked to assist in a search after a boat capsized off the Northern Beaches. The next day via local news media, MRBW Unit Commander, **Ian Morrow**, appealed to the boating community to prepare for the unexpected when taking a boat out on the water and always wear life jackets.

EXERCISING YOUR GREY CELLS



Here is the King - find the Queen!



MAKING WAVES:

News from on the water and in the Radio Room



STATE WIDE WATCH

NEW YEARS EVE, SYDNEY 2025



SOG VESSEL INDUCTION, DRILL DAY



Marine Rescue Broken Bay hosted training for 11 volunteers participating in a State Operations Group vessel induction and marine drills day. The day was spent learning to pack, unpack, setup, launch, steer and maintain the engines of various vessels and launch vehicles. This qualification continues to build on Marine Rescue's flood response capability, in readiness for statewide deployment, if SES/flood rescue conditions require.

Volunteers from Marine Rescue Hawkesbury inducted the team on the Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) setup and use. Members from Marine Rescue Tuggerah Lakes inducted trainees on the Multi Purpose Vessel (MPV) and additional volunteers from Cottage Point, Sussex Inlet and Middle Harbour participated in what turned out to be a scorchingly hot day!
Pic: MRBB FB

NEWCASTLE VOLUNTEERS HONOURED



Four Marine Rescue Newcastle volunteers have been presented with Commissioner's Citations by Marine Rescue NSW Acting Commissioner **Todd Andrews** during a ceremony at the unit's Stockton base last January in recognition of their role in a challenging offshore rescue.

The rescue operation began when an EPIRB (emergency position-indication radio beacon) was activated from a sailing catamaran that had capsized approximately 10 nautical miles east of Newcastle. The activation triggered a coordinated multi-agency search and rescue effort shortly after 10am on 11 July 2019.

Marine Rescue NSW Inspector **Steve Raymond** said rescue vessel Newcastle 30 crewed by **Ronald (Ron) Calman** and **Richard (Rick) Neville**, navigated through rough offshore conditions to become the first rescue vessel on scene.

"Throughout the operation, the Marine Rescue Newcastle crew faced significant challenges, with winds reaching 50-90km/h and swells of two to three metres," Inspector Raymond said.

At the same time, experienced operator **Geraldine Allen** was supported at the unit's radio base by **Warren Bramble**, who was on his first shift after gaining his radio operator qualifications.

"Geraldine and Warren were under immense pressure, managing communication with the unit's rescue vessel NC 30 as well as communications with myself and NSW Police Marine Area Command. Both operators maintained a high level of professionalism during the fast-paced mission." *Pic: MRN*



I hate it when a couple argue in public and I missed the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on...

Thanks to our Major Supporters



FAVOURITE PHOTOS



COASTAL PATROL

Memories



THE LAST LAUGH



Just sprayed my car with Rust Remover...

March						
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May						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

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 : David Wicks

MARINE RESCUE NSW BRISBANE WATER

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Unit Commander Ian Morrow

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Members contributions are welcome.

Editor - David Wicks

pr.brisbanewater@marinerescuensw.com.au

NEXT UNIT MEETING:

1000 hrs 11th APRIL 2026 preceded by Vessel Operations meeting at 0830 hrs.