

BEYOND THE BREAK

Autumn 2012



News and 'goss' of the Randwick District of Surf Lifesaving Sydney's Offshore Surf Rescue Boat Service



View from the Skippers' Seat

A hero has faced it all: he need not be undefeated, but he must be undaunted - Andrew Bernstein, American philosopher

A day in the life of Offshore 3 ...

Sometimes the most powerful words come from those operating at the coalface. In this issue, we transport you to a day on patrol with the Randwick District Surf Rescue Service (Offshore 3): their words, as recorded in the official rescue craft patrol log. Ordinary individuals, extraordinary surf lifesavers ... who in their voluntary capacity have found the strength not only to persevere and endure but breathe life into the quote above. To set the scene, the date is Sunday 5 February 2012, it's a beautiful sunny day. However, there is a large 3 metre swell pounding Sydney's entire eastern beaches and that familiar salty mist and ocean smell in the air...

"AM Patrol: Patrolled the Randwick beaches Little Bay up to Clovelly. Large barreling swell battering the entire coastline kept us out to sea.

PM Patrol: 1600hrs - at Malabar, assisted recreational vessel retrieve.

1641hrs - received a phone call from Sydney 10 Surf Lifesaving Duty Officer to attend a tasking at Little Congwong Bay

(just inside Cape Banks Northern entrance Headland to Botany Bay) where a 45 year old male had reportedly fallen off a rock ledge. We arrived on scene at 1650hrs the time as the first ambulance crew. Our crew (Jerome) suited up and swam in and climbed the rocks and treated patient alongside the ambulance officers inserting an OP airway and managing the airbag. Extraction was a concern and Offshore 3 was considered as an option as no rescue aircraft/helicopters were available to carry out a winch. The craft was prepared for a patient extraction. However, at the last minute, an air ambulance helicopter became available from Wollongong. Offshore 3 crew continued to work with the paramedics to manage the patient. Meanwhile SCAT ambulance and Police Rescue arrived on the scene. Water Police 42 attended but were called to an overturned vessel in Port Hacking.

Offshore 3 discharged a smoke flare, as the air ambulance helicopter flew into the area, in order to assist them with the precise location and aid determining wind

direction and strength around the bottom of the cliffs. SLS Duty Officer attended whilst our 'crewie' continued to work with the ambulance paramedics and prepare the patient for winching. Meanwhile, Offshore 3 maintained a safe water area during winching by moving recreational craft and keeping them clear of the area. Offshore 3 departed the scene at around 1845hrs.

A debrief was held back at the crew base. Patient was unconscious the entire time. The patient was airlifted to St George Hospital. The paramedics on scene had nothing but praise for Offshore 3's Rescue crewman and Offshore 3 - Jerome in particular performed above and beyond to deliver an outstanding patient outcome.

All Offshore 3's crew performed well - thanks to Lucky John M and Gerome. Thanks also to SLS duty officers Serge Vegh and Matt Evans for running the debrief."

Gary Pracy Patrol Skipper

Other Key Surf Patrol and 1300 Surf Taskings

Whoa! What a season! Despite the atrocious weather our craft has been kept busy during the summer months. Here's a "snapshot" of the recent taskings Offshore 3 has attended since our Spring Newsletter:

8 January 2012 - Offshore 3 rescued 3 sailors in a capsized 16 foot Hobie catamaran about 2 kms out to sea off Malabar. The catamaran simply could not be re-righted in a rising 2 metre ocean swell and 25 knot winds. The look of relief on the Catamaran crew's faces when Offshore 3 arrived! Offshore 3 attached its towing bridle to the Catamaran's re-righting rope and, after a first failed attempt, managed to re-right it. Offshore 3 shadowed catamaran back to Malabar - it had drifted about 1km down the coast toward the cliffs. Three very wet, tired, relieved and thankful sailors. Amazingly, all these guys were wearing board shorts and budgies - no lifejackets, no phone, no radio. Lucky boys! Crazy stuff!

11 February 2012 - Offshore 3 tasked to a fisherman in the water and an patient on the rocks at North Maroubra. Provided marine support while Rescue 23 carried out the winch of the patient (a 12 year old boy with a suspected broken leg). Maroubra IRB retrieved the fisherman (who was the boy's father). Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of the patrol using CPR and defibrillation the fisherman could not be resuscitated.

25 February 2012 - Offshore 3 tasked after hours (around 1900hrs) to a missing snorkeler at South Maroubra. Crew arrived on scene within 20 minutes of the tasking and continued searching with the Water Police and Rescue Helicopter until around 2200 hours when search was scaled down until the following morning because of deteriorating weather and surf conditions. Offshore 3 was back on scene at 0600 hrs the following morning and participated an intensive and extensive line search with Water police, Marine Rescue NSW, SLSA craft and Pol Air, Lifesaver 1, and Rescue 23. Offshore 3 worked with the Water Police until approximately 3:30 pm - the search area revised south as far

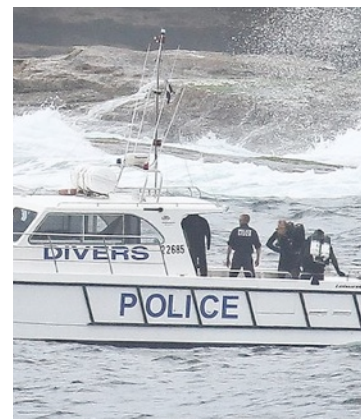
as Bundeena. Unfortunately, the missing snorkeler was not located that day. His body was found several days later.

Thursday 15 March 2012 at 314am - no this is not a typo - the rescue callout pagers were activated at 3:14 in the morning via 1300 SURF. The emergency - a missing swimmer at North Bondi - sighting confirmed by the police and the person seen floating in the distance and drifting out to sea. Our crews arrived at shed and were on the water within 20 minutes and were up at North Bondi participating in the search at 350am with Water Police 31 and the Air Ambulance Rescue 23 (the latter were using night goggles). All three response agencies worked in a co-ordinated manner and there was great communications thanks to George Shales. The search was scaled down at around 5:15am. Thankfully, however, this story had a happy ending the women had managed to clamber up rocks and was rescued the following morning sitting under a rock ledge. She had a 13 year old son - so it was a great ending and this made the early morning rise for the callout crews all the more worthwhile.

Saturday 1 April 2012 10 am - Offshore 3, whilst on route during a routine patrol from Botany Bay to Maroubra was "waved down" by members of the public on the shore near Little Bay. Two rock fisherman were plucked from the water by a rescue helicopter whilst a 3rd fisherman was missing. Offshore 3's rescue crew, donned in basic snorkeling dive gear, were towed behind the craft in an effort to locate the missing man. Unfortunately, despite an intensive search, the body was found by Police Scuba Divers. This was a nasty and tragic tasking. Thanks to George, Matt Pacey, Nick Riley and SLS Duty Officer Matt Evans.

Saturday 7 April 2012 Midday - a southerly buster hits Sydney and a scuba diver is reported in trouble off Cape Banks. Our three trainees, Jerome, James and Callum were in the middle of doing their crew exam with George, Gary and Tony when the craft was tasked. End result: the diver was retrieved safely and ferried to Frenchman's Bay and our trainee crews passed their exam - a great ending!

Pol Air and Police Divers were among the other rescue groups who joined us in searching off Magic Point Maroubra for the missing snorkeler



News



Is there life after surf lifesaving?

Yes! Our old rescue vessel, "City of Randwick II" went off to the auction house last December (after a

Botox with Splits fibreglassing she looked like new - truly!).

We are pleased to report that the "old girl" was sold and will recommence the next stage of her life in South Australia as an abalone dive boat. Apparently the yellow boat with a red canopy suited their requirements perfectly as the boat is easily distinguishable/recognisable from the air. So next time you happen to be down at Port Lincoln and you think you see a familiar looking Offshore Rescue Boat, just maybe ...

Training

Training continued on Thursday evenings throughout the season- although the weather and callouts have not been kind to our trainee crews. Well done to Matt Harrison (Coogee), Matt Harper (Maroubra), Callum Good (South Maroubra), Jerome Dillon-Baker (Coogee) and James Catterson (Wanda) for successfully attaining their crewie awards. Thanks to Matt E, Chesh and Prace for conducting the training. During Winter the aim is for Sunday morning training to continue.

Thursday Raffles

Our Thursday night raffles at the Coogee Bay Hotel have continued throughout the summer which has been a terrific source of additional income for the craft for which we have been grateful - Thanks to Tony Williams and the CBH crew. "Lucky" John Mackey is

continuing to run these with military precision and anyone interested in helping out give John a bell.

Craft repairs and maintenance

The craft's engines were serviced in January by Hunts Marine and there was some minor fibreglassing works carried out in February by Splits fibreglassing. The good news is that Splits has been in contact with the manufacturer of the gelcoat colour and a 5kg batch has been made up based on a sample colour of our boat - a perfect match for our vessel. This should make future repairs and colour matching less of a hit and miss affair for young Craig at Splits fibreglassing when doing minor repair work.

We ask crews to check the two aft pods for water - taking care to ensure the plastic hatches have been reinstalled correctly following checking. We suspect the hatch seals and possible break in seal on the rear engine bolts might be the culprit and was letting in a small amount of water which can build up if not checked. We will fix this permanently during the Winter months.

Surf Rescue 30

During a recent co-operative rescue tasking with the water police and other rescue agencies, our call-sign "Offshore 3" caused some confusion with the other rescue agencies as it does not match our livery/ surf rescue branding. It wasn't until a couple of hours into the tasking that the police put "2 and 2" together and realised Offshore 3 = Surf Lifesaving. After much deliberation, the decision was made our call-sign will change from the end of this season to "Surf Rescue 30" (not a decision the Executive team took lightly) to make identification a little easier with other rescue agencies. This will also bring us into line with call-signs of agencies such as the Water

Our Captain says ...

I would like to personally thank everyone for their efforts this season in providing patrols and assistance to the areas of Randwick and Waverley that are not covered by traditional patrols and for assisting the clubs when required during 2011/2012.

Our crews have at all times been professional and a real asset to Support Services Sydney Branch as evidenced by some of the stories in this Newsletter. Well done!

The Group this season was involved in a number of out of hours callouts often in very poor conditions or at night when visibility is low. Attending a callout tasking late at night or in the early hours of the morning is a big commitment and highlights the skill level and professionalism of our group so, a big thank you to our Callout Teams.

Finally, I wish crews a well deserved break over the off season and, hopefully, when the new season commences we'll be that much closer to being in our new base which not only better accommodates our needs but also provides a comfortable and fit for purpose environment for all.

Prace

Police and Marine Rescue. We have sought approval of SLS NSW and the Randwick District and we will advise the Australia Communications and Media Authority and Australian Maritime Safety Authority. Finally we'll formalise this change with a general communication to surf clubs and Marine Rescue Solander.

moving and inspiring... I fell in love with "Guido" played by Roberto Benigni... a movie everybody must see.

If you could have dinner with anyone in History, who would it be and why?

Lady Diana... I have so many questions I would like to ask her... questions only she can answer. She was always gracious and did not speak poorly of anyone. She focused on her charity work... well before it became fashionable. She paved the way... the rest followed.

If I won a \$1 million I'd ...

make sure my mum and dad's place was paid off and then I'd send them on a holiday... I might even go with them! The rest I'd share with my siblings.

I can't live without ...

my music! Music makes my world go round.



60 seconds with ... Sandra Francis, Coogee

This edition we profile young Sandra Francis (who has just celebrated a special birthday!) a Coogee SLS member and Offshore crewie. Those who know her - Sandra is always smiling and laughing ...

Your favorite food and restaurant?

I know this sounds cliché but my mum's Lebanese food... nobody makes it quite like mum does. Her kitchen is open 24 hours 7 days a week. How lucky am I?

Favorite movie?

"La Vita e Bella" or Life is Beautiful, an Italian movie... a story of the Holocaust portrayed in a comic-strip format. It's a clever balance of comedy with tragedy. Incredibly

Sandra - Offshore 3 Crewie
Big law firm employee by day volunteer and charity supporter (seriously it's incredible how much time Sandra gives to various charities) - and did we mention ... party animal!

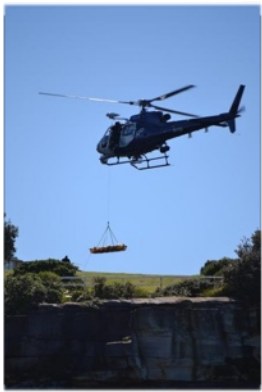
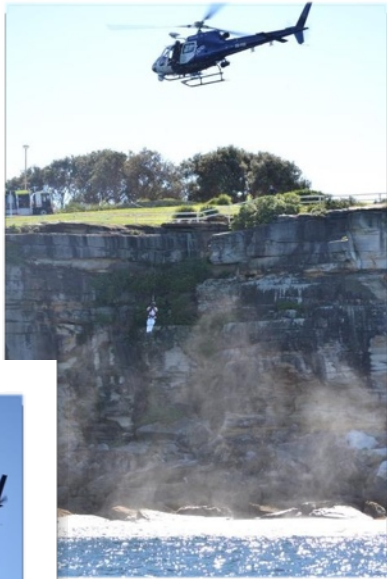


Photo montage of a recent tasking to the cliffs at Dolphin Point, Coogee involving Randwick's Offshore 3 and PolAir

Heading into Winter What's happening?

With the end of the 2011/2012 upon us, our thoughts turn to the winter months. For some this means footy, for others hitting the slopes for a bit of skiing, for most a well earned break from lifesaving.

For Offshore 3 winter is a time of consolidation. Engines will be serviced at Hunts, minor bumps repaired, rescue equipment, radios and PPE cleaned and re-certified. The trailer will undergo a bit of TLC as well!

The boat will remain online for most of winter - able to be activated at short notice to rescue taskings utilising our after- hours callout crews. Gentle Reminder to callout skippers to check their after hours callout rostering dates!

We are looking at a couple of potentially big equipment configuration changes on the craft and the purchase of some new equipment and will keep you posted in the Winter edition of our *Beyond the Break* e-newsletter, so keep an eye on your inboxes!



End of Year Preso - mark your "Dance Cards" now

Oh yeah - we reckon there will be some good awards this year.

- Dummy spit of the year
- The Gerry Stephenson /Splits fibreglassing award for best panel work to the craft
- The new Seaworld award
- The "Rip-Tear-Bust" award!
- And let's not forget the Aussie Boys award (yep those golden budgies make an appearance) + the coveted Crew of the Year award (these are separate awards - but there are space constraints in this newsletter!)

Date: Late July at the CBH Seabreeze Room (pencil in Sat 28 July!). Details to be sent shortly.



Splits Fibreglass (aka Botox for boats) has been operating in the Sutherland Shire for 20 years. It is a family owned business run by Craig Kass. Craig has a passion for boats and has many years of experience in repairs and is a big supporter of Offshore 3.

Splits Fibreglass not only carries out repairs and maintenance to all fibreglass boats (up to 28") - if your boat is bigger - a home visit can be arranged. All insurance work is welcome.

Splits has been supporting Offshore 3 for the last decade, helping ensure our rescue boat is in tip top shape, has minimum down time so we're always looking our best. For those with boats, boards or skis - if you get a ding and want it professionally repaired and looking and performing as good as new again - Splits is the place to go so have a talk to Craig. Go to www.splitsfibreglass.com.au/ for details.

Socially, we're organising our end of season get together; and closer to the start of next season a *Brekkie at the Bay* - similar to what we did a few years ago.

On the training front - we'll be doing crew driver and skipper training over the winter months!

Oh, and we almost forgot, on the base front - great news. The DA plans for our new base have now been approved by Randwick City Council (and Department of Lands) so we are now ready to move onto planning for the building stage. A huge pat on the back to Heather and her team at ARTAS Architects for helping us get everything across the line.

Finally to all our volunteer crews, thanks for a great season and your dedication. No matter how good the boat and equipment, without you we would not be patrolling the Randwick Coastline with a 99% on the water attendance for 2011/2012. Well done. Enjoy your offseason, stay safe and see you at the preso night! Happy days!