

BEYOND THE BREAK

SURF LIFE SAVING RANDWICK OFFSHORE RESCUE BOAT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

The elephant in the room...

I thought long and hard about writing this column. But what tipped for me was a recent fundraising raffle we did down at the the Coogee Bay Hotel. Let me explain. The hotel was busy, with a great mix of families and travellers in the beer garden and bistro. It was shaping up for a good raffle night for the crew. The last remnants of autumn were in the air - a mild night. Yet, the patrons were not as generous as they normally are. We ended up with \$180.00 - which after you take out the prize left us with \$130.00 - not enough to fuel the boat on a busy summer long weekend! Now we're not going to grumble - as the fundraising at the CBH this year has been terrific and let's face it \$130 is - well, \$130 we did not have before. But this is by far the smallest amount we've ever made. Following the raffle we sat down and over dinner, had a quiet ale and "chewed the fat". Were we chatting with the patrons too much? -No, Gerry wasn't on the raffle tonight! Was it because Lucky John was not on raffle duty? Perhaps. Are people feeling charity fatigued? Maybe. And then one of the crew mentioned that patrons seemed to be interested where the money was (Cont'd page 2)



A smorgasbord of rescues

Teamwork allows common people to attain uncommon results - old proverb

Clovelly Bay tasking: At approximately 1150 hours whilst Surf Rescue 30 was undertaking crew training off Coogee Beach the crew overheard a call between the Clovelly Patrol Captain and Surf Com Sydney regarding the possibility of a diver in trouble in the stretch of water off the Clovelly Car Park in the vicinity of Bundock Park and Burrows Park. Surf Rescue 30 responded immediately and arrived on scene in less than a minute.

Upon arrival the crew spotted Randwick City Council's Clovelly Lifeguard supporting what appeared to be a semi-conscious scuba diver slumped on the rescue board close to the rocks.

The Lifeguard paddled the patient out to Surf Rescue 30. The patient was then transferred on board Surf Rescue 30 and the crew proceeded to undertake the patient assessment.

(Cont'd page 3)



TRESNE CHESHER (Maroubra SLSC) meet our new Captain for 2013/2014. Tresne is the first female Captain in the Group's in the Groups 44 year history having recently attained her Skippers award. Tresne's married to Steve (also a skipper in our crew) and has 3 terrific children.



SANDRA FRANCIS (Coogee SLSC) Completing the female daily double, Sandra is our Vice Captain and an experienced crewie in the craft. Sandra recently went from law firm to Qantas - working on Qantas International.



Jarrod Robertson (on the fight folks) (Sth Maroubra SLSC) is Surf Rescue 30's Training Officer for season 2013/14. Jarrod is a 2nd officer on Qantas Long Haul so comes well qualified for the job

The elephant in the room (continued)

going. One of the crew then mentioned that he had seen the ABC 4-Corners episode on Monday night about surf lifesaving - "had anybody else seen it" he enquired? "No, what was it about?" we all asked.

Now I cannot comment on fundraising or governance at a higher level than the 4 corners focused upon nor do I intend to here. Thomas Paine said that "reputation is what men and women think of us; character is what God and angels know of us". I urge anyone who questions those at the coalface to consider the achievements of the many thousands of surf lifesavers around the nation. To be fair, the 4 Corners program did not question this. In this newsletter we mention several of our own personal stories of the last quarter. Your executive firmly believe that we need to focus on those things we can control. Last year your executive were extremely proud of your achievements as lifesavers. As crew, you all went above and beyond, and we can stand extremely proud of our contribution to Surf Life Saving and the City of Randwick.

* Surf Rescue 30 earned the Sydney Branch Honour of 2012/2013 Rescue of the Year (Crew for the Tasking were Karl Solomonson, Tony Grivell and

THE ICE BAR AT THE CBH

* It was a chilly -5 degrees celsius at Coogee for the last couple of weeks. What, I hear you say? How can this be.? The CBH Pop-Up ice Bar complete with 4 tonnes of ice, bar made of ice and ice chairs and ice glasses had hit Coogee. This was a special opening for the families of Randwick Surf Rescue 30. The kids had enjoyed a juice in an ice cup (which they all took great pleasure in smashing after the experience) in the frozen world of the ice bar. The smiles on all the kids' faces said it all!

* Thanks to Kylie Brown of the CBH who opened up the ice bar for a special chilly session with the families of Surf Rescue 30 a couple of weeks ago.



- * Matt Harper (Maroubra) and Rosie (North Bondi SLSC);
- * Gary Pracy (Maroubra SLSC) our Captain last season received the accolade of Sydney Branch Support Operation's Group Member of the year;
- * Matt Harper (Maroubra SLSC and crewie) took out under 19 Lifesaver of the Year.
- * Nick Kypreos (Maroubra SLSC and driver) was awarded Sydney Branch RWC member of the year.

Additionally, we have had a strong year on crews gaining awards. Well done to those life savers who gained their Offshore Crewie Certificate:

Matt Spooner (Coogee) and Steve Denholm (Maroubra); also to James Catterson (Wanda) and Nick Kypreos (Maroubra) who both attained their Driver's ticket; and last but not least Jarrod Robertson (Sth Maroubra), Tony Grivell and Tresne Chesher who each gained their Offshore Rescue Boat Skipper's award (and this being particularly special as it's the first time a female life saver has attained this particular award in our Group!). Then there were the rescues we performed ...

If character is defined by spirit, pride, passion and professionalism in the performance of patrolling duties then as crew your executive believe that in the words of Thomas Paine you are all soaring in the heavens!

SURF RESCUE 30 END OF SEASON PRESO

This year's end of season preso and get together was held at the Coogee Bay Hotel in the Seabreeze Room. Twas a great night ... as they say ...

Crew of the year!

Well done to Tony Grivell who was awarded Crew of the Year for 2012/2013. Tony had a great season of patrols, attained his Skipper's award, attended numerous callouts, and was an active participant in several major taskings including the Clovelly diver in distress which saw Surf Rescue 30 being awarded Sydney Branch SLS Rescue of the



2013/14 saw the introduction of a new award - "The Captain's Award" which is awarded to a crewie who has worked hard and exhibits the core values of Surf Rescue 30. This year this award went to Matt Harper. Matt was always willing to lend a hand, is enthusiastic gained his crewie award and was involved in several critical incident taskings. Great work Matt!

Surf Rescue 30 2013/14 Team Meetings Schedule

Place: Maroubra SLSC

Time: 7pm kick-off

Executive & Skippers' Meetings:

Wednesday 9 October, Wednesday 11 December, Wednesday 12 February, Wednesday 9 April and an end of season debrief on Sunday 11 May.

Full Crew Meetings: Wednesday 11 September, Wednesday 13 November, Wednesday 8 January and Wednesday 12 March.

A smorgasbord of rescues



(cont'd from page 1)

with the Randwick Lifeguard heading back into the water to look for a possible 2nd missing diver. At this stage the patient was conscious. The patient had major lacerations to both hands, he was complaining of loss of feeling in hands and arms due to possible bluebottle sting. Surf Rescue 30's crew began treating the bleeding which was extensive and prepared the Oxy Viva. After 10 minutes the patient suddenly deteriorated, became semi-conscious and began regurgitating blood and water. The crew suspected an embolism or water in the lungs as reports surfaced that he may have been trapped in an underwater rock cave and may have panicked. The Surf Rescue 30's treatment priorities suddenly changed.

Surf Rescue 30 proceeded to Coogee Beach where the seas were calmer and Duty Officers had been tasked and worked to stabilize the patient for 25 minutes before securing the patient into our stokes litter for transport back to Coogee Beach. Once Surf Rescue 30 were confident that the patient was secured and stabilised, two of its crew members (Tony Grivell and Matt Harper) together with the Coogee IRB crew evacuated the patient off the vessel via the IRB back to the beach where an ambulance had been tasked.

The patient was then treated by the Coogee Patrol and Ambulance Paramedics for a further 20 minutes on shore before being transported to Prince of Wales Hospital by ambulance

The patient's survival was aided by outstanding teamwork and communication between volunteers and professionals.

Well done to Karl Solomonson, (Skipper); Tony Grivell (Driver); Matt Harper (Crew); and Rosie Rosemarie Taliano (Crew).

Mahon Pool Tasking

During Patrol change over at around 12:30, the craft was tasked to a missing diver off Mahon Pool.

The craft arrived on scene within 10 minutes of the call and Matt Harper entered the water after being informed that there was a free diver who had been missing for about 15 minutes.

After a mere 30 seconds in the water, Matt spotted the patient on the seabed at a depth of about just over 3 metres. Matt and Randwick City Council's lifeguards made several attempts to reach the man. Unfortunately he was just too deep. Randwick City Lifeguard managed to reach the man and bring him to the surface on about their 6th attempt and despite efforts at CPR and taking the man to shore, he could not be revived.

Rose Bay Missing Kayaker

With the thermometer hovering at around 10 degrees, a wild southerly battering Sydney with rain squalls, and crews getting ready to sit down to dinner on Friday night after a week's work - off goes the callout pager.

The Tasking: a new ocean Kayak had been floating out near Shark Island in Rose Bay by a passing water taxi with no one in it.

The crew decided to proceed to Rose Bay by road - about 1/2 a hour trip from our base.

Upon arrival at Rose bay we were greeted by a smiling Gerry, our duty officer for the night. The police came over, had a chat with us and as soon as they realised we were not in an IRB, and had both a fixed and portable FLIR unit on board, decided to extend the search by 45 minutes. We were assigned the Northern foreshore of Rose Bay and once again the FLIR Camera showed its worth - literally turning night

into day as as we remotely controlled the camera from the safety of the cabin.

Nothing was found and at around 9:30 pm we were stood down. On our last sweep of the foreshore, as we proceeded back to the boat ramp, the crew thought they observed a party in one of the harbourside mansions. How wrong we all were? Within seconds the crew was blinded by a green high power laser which blinded us from about 1 km away. As soon as we turned towards it, the culprits got into their car and took off. The crew now know how pilots feel coming into land when these idiots shine them into the cockpit from below. They literally blind you. The Police indicated that Manly ferries have been targeted previously.

Cape Banks Rescue

Why is it we are guaranteed a rescue during our crew exams? During the recent exam of Jarrod Robertson (Sth Maroubra) (undertaking his Skipper's award); James Caterson (Wanda)(doing his Offshore Driver's exam); and Steve Denholm (doing his Crewie award), the boat was called on 27MHz radio to a capsized boat off Cape Banks (the treacherous northern headland of Sydney's Botany Bay with a notorious bombora). When Surf Rescue 30 arrived on scene there were items floating in the water and there was a boat up on the rocks. Patient for the exam was Matt Evans (who was a Skipper of Surf Rescue 30) who all of a sudden became the rescuer with Steve Denholm. Both suited up, left the craft and swam across to assist the patient on the rocks. The other patient was hanging on for "grim death" to the hull of his capsized vessel. The patients were assisted back to Surf Rescue 30 before being transferred to a NSW Maritime vessel with NSW Police on board. All crew then went on to successfully complete their exam Well done to all and particularly skipper of the day Gary Pracy, Matt Evans and Steve Denholm.

What's been happening?

QUICK UPDATE

Winter has been the usual hustle and bustle for us as we prepare the craft for the season. Here's a quick snapshot of what we've been doing:

✔ The boat has been down to Splits Fibreglassing where Craig and his band of merry men have given the boat some minor cosmetic surgery to ensure she is looking at her best for the start of the season.

✔ The trailer welds on all the tunnel supports were totally redone. There was considerable additional welding to the trailer and additional supports to assist the trailer cope with the "hurley burley" of launches and retrievals.

✔ The brakes on the trailer have been completely replaced - discs calipers and brake lines bled and reattached to the trailer - the whole "kit and caboodle".

✔ The trailer's water irrigation system has been repaired - and the switch has been relocated from the water tank to a waterproof case on the main horizontal support at the front of the trailer. This should prevent moisture from getting trapped in the switch because it could not drain adequately.

✔ The locks on the side doors have been replaced.

✔ The trailer has been to Council for inspection and certification.

✔ All the lifejackets have been inspected and re-certified.

✔ All heavy weather spray jackets have been dry-cleaned.

✔ First-aid kits have been totally restocked.

✔ Oxy vivas have been serviced.

✔ All radios (Base, 4WD and Craft and Portables) have been reprogrammed.

✔ Boat survey with NSW Maritime as been completed. The marine surveyor commented that Surf Rescue 30 was one of the best prepared vessels he'd inspected.

✔ Base, craft and 4WD fire extinguishers have all been replaced.

✔ Surf SLS gear inspection has been completed.

✔ The on-line patrol roster is now up and running and ready to go.

Phew - it makes you tired just thinking about it all!

OUR AGM

We had a breakfast down at the CBH followed by the AGM.

This year we've had a significant change to the executive. Gary, after a sterling job last season, has decided against running in the position of Captain so he could concentrate on his studies this year. Best of luck with this Gary.

Tresne, who has been the Group's Vice Captain for as long as most of us can remember (she served as Vice Captain under former Captains Matt Evans, Serge Vegh, Matt Pacey and Gary Pracy) has decided to step up and is our first ever female Boat Captain. Well done Tresne and I hope all those who she has supported over the years will return the favour. Anyone who has done the job knows how difficult (and stressful) it can be at times.

Our new Vice Captain is Sandra Francis. Congratulations Sandra. And finally, our new training officer is Jarrod Robertson who will bring considerable expertise and discipline to the role.

Secretary, Treasurer and Chair positions remain unchanged from last year with Karl, George and Richard respectively holding these.

FUNDING

Since our last newsletter, we have been successful with several funding

grants. Thanks to South Sydney Juniors and Maroubra Seals for assistance in towards the purchase price of new wetsuits and Personal Protective Equipment. Surf Lifesaving NSW has generously provided some money as a contribution towards our running costs. And finally thanks to the Coogee Bay Hotel for their ongoing support for the 2013/2014 season. Whilst on the subject of the CBH, last season's Thursday night "chook" raffle totals were \$5,479.00 - great effort by Lucky John!

FRIDGE MONEY

Again this year we'd ask crews contribute a mere \$30.00 towards the fridge money to ensure that we can keep the fridge topped up with ice, bottled water and soft drinks during the season for patrolling crew members. This saves you having to fish around for money during the season. Simply give your moula to your Skipper who will add your name onto the list on the fridge.

A big thanks also to Greg Williams from Cassella Wines who we met down at the CBH Ice Bar launch recently. Greg kindly dropped a case of ARVO boutique beer for crews to enjoy at the end of a day's patrol. A selection of boutique beers of the world are available for crews once the craft is packed away after patrol. The cost: a mere gold coin donation!

SUPPORT OPERATIONS FORMS

Gentle reminder for crews to complete these forms and get them back to the branch office.

SURFCOM SYDNEY

As Skippers know, SurfCom Sydney this year will be run out of Belrose. The key message is that in terms of Surf Rescue 30's sign on procedures nothing has changed. We simply sign on and off as we normally do. However, for surf clubs the sign on processes have changed significantly, with sign-on to be initiated by SurfCom to each club from North to South along the coast.

More stuff from around the

traps



**Surf Rescue 30 Families
Breakfast at the Bay - The
Dolman Family**

TRAINING

Jarrold with the assistance of Callum and Jerome have been working hard on crew training programs. Over the next couple of weeks Jarrold has organised some night training. There will be a session around Malabar and Botany Bay, further sessions in Sydney Harbour to familiarise crews with conditions and landmarks as in heavy weather this in the retrieval Port of choice (and last year Surf Rescue 30 was called upon to assist NSW Water Police with several searches in the Harbour). These are great sessions as the "world" off and around Sydney really is very different at night. The sessions will be conducted by Pete, Chesh and Gary. All callout crew are urged to attend and a briefing and pre-read document are available from Jarrold for those wanting to attend.

CALLOUTS

The night training exercises organised by Jarrold are a great segway into the topic of out of hours callouts. Just a quick reminder to all skippers in relation to the duty

callout roster and how important it is for the allocated skipper to respond via the radio to the Duty Officer. The deal is simply that an SMS will be sent out and the callout duty skipper should respond via UHF Ch3 in an effort to understand what the tasking is and confirm that he/she is on their way to the base, where a formal risk assessment will be carried out in consultation with crew. If the duty officer does not hear back from the duty skipper within a couple of minutes of the first page a second page will go out meaning that any of non-rostered duty shippers should contact the duty officer on UHF Ch. 3. It is really important we get this process right following the move from crew pagers. Any questions, have a chat with Tresne.

QANTAS GIVES US A WINGS!

Many thanks to Qantas and our Qantas all stars crew of Jarrold (2nd Officer); Sandra (Flight Attendant); and Gerry (Loadmaster extraordinaire with "Yoda" like abilities) who all showed terrific ownership in the application they made for funding support for Surf Rescue 30; - and they were successful! The \$5,000 grant we received will be applied towards a new Laptop for our base (to replace our 1990's desktop); an Ipad Mini for the rescue vessel; and a couple of GoPro Hero3s to be permanently mounted on the rescue craft to record taskings which we can use for training and incident debriefing look-backs for rescue crews.

FROM THE CAPTAIN

Well the 2013/2014 season is upon us!!!

As we enter the new season, I would like to welcome you all back.

Sandra (our VC) has set up our roster system, so please start putting yourself down for patrols. Please remember that for 100% efficiency members:

- who do beach patrols are required to do 20 hours prior to the end of year and 20 hours in the new year.
- who only do boat patrols, are required to do 25 hours prior to the end of year and 25 hours in the new year.

This season, I hope we are able to patrol to our full potential and be readily available both during patrol hours and after hours.

Over the next couple of weeks we will be organising some night training to ensure our after hours crew are ready. If you are interested in being part of after-hours callout please let me know.

Our skippers' and crew meetings are held each alternative month. It is important that you attend these meetings if you are available as important information is given.

Finally, if you have concerns please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be more than happy to assist where I can.

Tresne

DON'T BE SHY

The member login and patrol website is now up and running, so please check your "dance cards" and put yourself down for patrols over the next few months. This makes life much easier for our VC Sandra as well.

WEBSITE

On the website there is a new tab called "Events" which will show the approved activities the craft has agreed to support during the season. Skippers should check this before their patrols

RANDWICK SURF RESCUE 30

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BEYOND THE BREAK

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Safer oceans, safer beaches, safer lives

www.surfrescue30.com.au