

July 2018

BEYOND THE BREAK

Newsletter of Surf
Rescue 30 -
Randwick District
Offshore Rescue
Boat Service



Another
glorious day
at Malabar!

SURF RESCUE 30 vs THE ROBOTIC VACUUM CLEANER

At our recent annual presentation night we reflected on the differences ...

I was intrigued by a family I saw at Westfield Bondi Junction last year sporting a robotic vacuum cleaner as part of their shopping exploits. At over \$1000 they don't come cheap. Unsurprisingly, this is a cleaning product that has sparked much interest. In a time-poor society, it is very attractive to imagine being able to sit and relax while an artificially intelligent device cleans the house. Makers of these revolutionary products spruik their 'push of a button' efficiency. They are said to be quiet; they have on board navigation software, stair detection capabilities, and cameras to spot dirt. They can even find their way back to a charger. And for those of us who are technology savvy they even have an app which allows you to program them and see their progress around your home on your mobile: entertaining perhaps when you are bored on your next dinner date!

A recent report by consumer group *Choice* focused on robot vacuum cleaners. According to *Choice*, they fail at one crucial thing: they cannot efficiently clean! The report stated that they do not have the suction of a conventional vacuum cleaner and as a consequence they

remove very little dirt. Despite their impressive 'spaceship like' appearance, their maneuverability, their technological sophistication and connectivity it seems they fail to achieve their fundamental purpose: - to clean!

Having a clear purpose, and directing our attention to it, is obviously crucial to success. Without such clarity and commitment, we are likely to either aimlessly drift in uncertainty or be easily satisfied with mediocrity. Douglas MacArthur wrote: "*People grow old only by deserting their ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up interest wrinkles the soul. Worry, self-doubt, self-distrust, fear and despair; these are the long, long years that bow the head and turn the growing spirit back to dust.*"

This newsletter is a tribute to Surf Rescue 30's purpose and ideals and all our crew should stand proud of our achievements in 2017/2018. Each of you is a credit to your surf clubs, the Branch, SLSNSW and the SLSEA; and each of you has helped define Surf Rescue 30's purpose: *Safer Beaches, Safer Ocean, Safer Lives!*



View from the driver's seat
Great shot showing what the driver of Surf Rescue 30 actually sees on patrol - albeit on a calm day. Note the cluster of instruments providing the driver with vital real time information on the craft's performance. On a big day the swells regularly wash across the front deck!

TRAINING



Training at Malabar and Gordon's Bay whilst on Patrol

Training continues with stokes litter, rock access and basic S&R techniques being regularly practiced by crews to continually "hone" their rescue skills. Surf Rescue 30 is also up-skilling crew to achieve competency for driver's and skipper's awards

2016/17 Season Wrap up!

Wow, what a terrific season. The stats are truly impressive:

Over 60 taskings and some truly extraordinary rescues which contributed to several nominations and successes for Rescue of the Month. On at least one occasion several members of the public would likely not with us today but for the intervention of the crews of Surf Rescue 30. The rescue of 2 female Canadian tourists 500 metres south west off Randwick's notorious yellow rock in wild and woolly conditions by Brad Taylor and crew was a great effort. Context: Brad gave Yellow Rock an unusually wide berth whilst on patrol on a miserable grey and windy day when one of his crew waved to some divers in the water - who he thought were being friendly. Brad asked the question: "what's unusual about this scene?" - two people out a long way from shore and no one else in sight. He asked the driver to circle back to check to see if everything was OK. As they arrived next to the two divers, they had just inflated their distress buoy. The divers were Canadian tourists and they said they could not see their dive boat but "they were sure they would come back to look for them." Hmm...

Brad radioed Surfcom who advised to say that he had retrieved two scuba divers from the water and who had activated their distress flare. Maroubra Patrol advised there was a dive boat tucked in close to Maroubra Beach behind the headland - about 2 km away and it might be worth checking to see if they

belonged to this vessel. This is exactly what Brad did. As he pulled up next to the dive boat he quizzed the Dive Master and whether they had accounted for everyone. A rather flustered dive master indicated they were doing a headcount - and guess what - they were short two divers. At this point Brad pointed to the two dives lying on our deck. Brad said the dive master's smile of relief was unforgettable! This story had a happy ending - but given the speed with which the tourists were being taken south west towards NZ - it might have been so different. Well done guys.

Brad (again!) Tony Grivell, and Tom Baker performed an outstanding rescue off the rocks at Clovelly - again in very difficult conditions where a young man had fallen off the cliff near Clovelly Bowling Club. As the boat was patrolling Tom thought he saw a member of the public performing CPR at the cliff base. Tom and Tony made their way across to the rocks with Defib and Oxy Viva in tow. The Randwick Lifeguards and Tony commenced CPR with Tom doing remote comms. The air ambulance arrived with a trauma doctor. While the team managed in difficult circumstances to get a shockable rhythm, unfortunately the patient could not be revived. Nevertheless it was a text book effort by our valiant crew and the Randwick Lifeguards. Again well done and worthy of an honourable mention in despatches by Sydney Branch!



SURF RESCUE 30 ON PATROL - SYDNEY TO HOBART 2017



Boxing day in Sydney - Off Clovelly and SLS 18-25 Development Network Program

SLSNSW 18-25 Development Network Program is a great way to showcase the opportunities within SLS for our up & coming leaders. These activities are so important and rewarding for all involved (below) ; and Tony Grivell, Steve Denholm and Coco on patrol on Boxing Day (left) somewhere off Clovelly!



Ken Blakie award and Crew of the Year ...

2016/2017 was a Stellar year for the rescue craft and it was difficult deciding the recipients of these awards.

The Ken Blakie Award is awarded annually and is a honour bestowed to the crew member (it can be a Skipper, Driver or Crew) who best exemplifies the traits that made Ken Blakie such a valued and respected surf lifesaver including integrity, excellence, teamwork and commitment. Ken was a lovable larrikin who alway made time to mentor junior members and displayed a "can do" attitude mixed with an affable sense of humour. At the same time he was a tremendous administrator managing to navigate the Group through some difficult times in the 80's when the former Jet Rescue Boat 3 service had few crew and little in the way of sponsorship and funds to support the Group. We owe much today to Ken's dreams and legacy. The 2016/2017 Ken Blakie award was awarded to Brad Taylor who had a great year completing over 150 hours of patrols on the craft and who was the Skipper on some of the most notable and difficult rescues in 2016/17.

... and the winners are ...

The Captain's award is chosen by the Group Captain, Mat Harper and this year went to two crew. Young Tom Wallace helicopter pilot extraordinaire from Coogee SLSC has had a terrific couple of seasons on Surf Rescue 30 attaining both his Offshore Rescue Crew and Driver's awards. Tom is always ready to lend a hand jumping in to fill patrols whenever he has been asked and has been a willing trainer for our new crews. Tom patrolled in excess of 60 hours on the craft during the 2016/17 season. And last, but not least, Nixy Krite of South Maroubra received the 2nd Captain's award. Nixy is an energetic rescue crew member known for rolling her sleeves up to train our new crewies (often jumping in the water in winter training sessions ...boots and all!) and was a valued member and contributor of the Surf Rescue 30 Executive in 2016/17. Nixy patrolled and trained in excess of 100 hours during the season and recently was inducted into our callout crews.

Well done to Brad, Nixy and Tom! *Below: Brad and Nixy receiving their awards from the Honorable Major of Randwick, Noel de Souza*

A BIG SHOUT OUT TO SLS NSW

.. for proving much needed funding from the Support Operations Grant which will be applied towards getting all our gear in order for the 2017/18 season

THANKS TO THE CBH

A big shout out to all the crew at the CBH!
The CBH have again supported Surf Rescue 30 for 2017/18

THE SPIRIT OF AUSTRALIA ...

Thank you to Qantas'
We were successful in receiving a grant from the Qantas foundation in 2017/18 which we will apply towards an AIS integrated with our FLIR and VHF for added crew safety and peace of mind



Some quick hits

The off-season was a big period of R&R - that is rejuvenation and revival. The rescue craft went down to *Splits Fibreglassing* where Craig and his team weaved their magic. The dings and dents on the hull were patched up, new locks were added to the doors (which seem to be holding up unusually well during the season) and the stainless steel superstructure was totally repaired.

From Splits it was off to Hunts where the engines received pampering in the form of a major service.

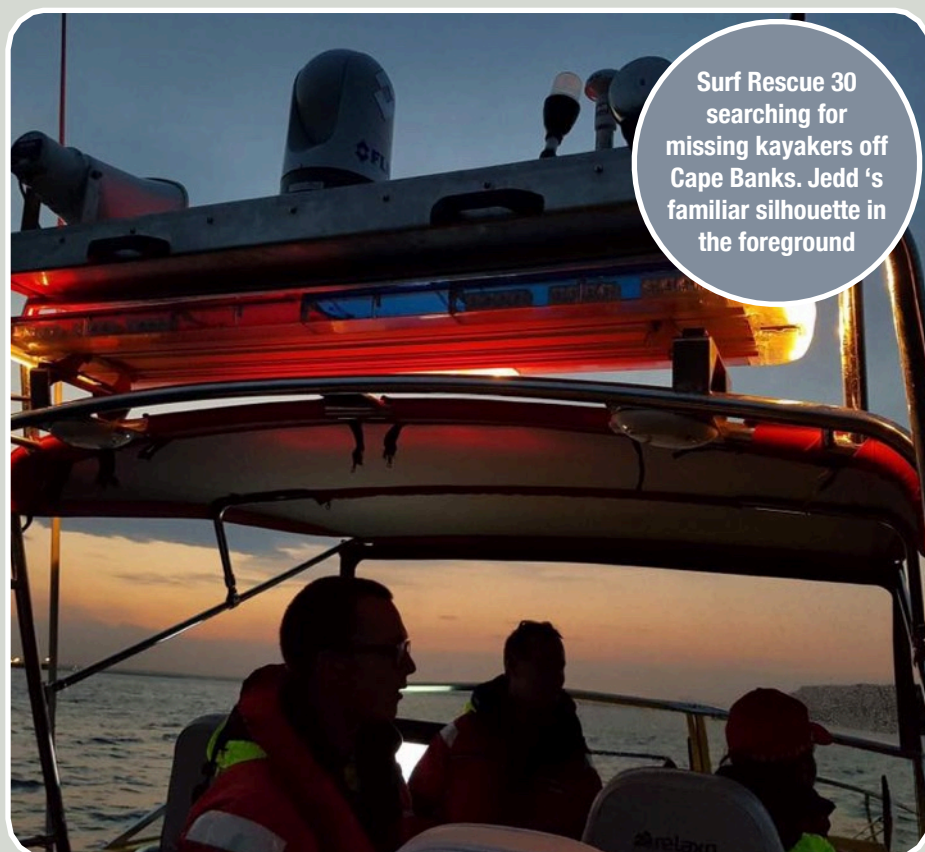
Then it was off to the auto centre where the trailer brakes were totally replaced and the trailer welds were reinspected and re-welded.

The boat then did a tour of duty inland at Dural where a new Forward Looking Infra-Red (FLIR) was installed complete with stainless steel case for the electrics along with a new marine colour monitor with swipe functionality and split interfaces (installed in front of the Skipper) new transducer added for depth and last but not least a new VHF was installed with loudspeaker and listening device capability - so we can easily speak to and hear people on other vessels and on shore.

A big thanks to Steve Denholm (Maroubra SLSC) and (Mat Harper) for working to see these repairs through.

On the sponsorship front we were successful with Qantas, Coogee Bay Hotel, South Sydney Juniors and The Maroubra Seals Club. The money has been used to purchase 10 new male and female Neptune Rescue wetsuits, 3 new 'super' torches, new dive gear, a dan buoy and a new EPIRB.

The torches are truly amazing. Made from aviation grade aluminum they house a globe that you see on the the landing lights for a 747. With a maximum lumen rating of approaching 3,000 lumens after 90 seconds and fully rechargeable, they have reach of around 2kms and are stored in a special carry cases that when dropped will protect them from a 5 metre impact and are ready to go for night taskings. They will be of great value on those dark Randwick night time coastline taskings and will supplement our night time FLIR search and rescue capabilities which have already proved invaluable on a callout to Yarra Bay. At around \$1,000 each they are not cheap and they are kept in the shed in their specially designed - so please take care of them. And they are water resistant not fully waterproof so please, please - do not drop them into the 'drink'.



Surf Rescue 30 searching for missing kayakers off Cape Banks. Jedd 's familiar silhouette in the foreground

LOTS OF STUFF HAPPENING DURING THE OFF SEASON



(from the top) Completion of Penthrane Training at Maroubra; Brekkie at the Bay; and at the Randwick Mayor's morning tea at Randwick Town Hall honouring volunteers

The pictures say it all - lots of smiling faces. A big thanks to John Restuccia for conducting the green whistle training

2018 Updates

OK enough of 2017, what's been happening this year. WHOA! - there's been a heck of lot to update on but here's a snapshot of the more significant taskings...

Rescue Rescue Rescue

On the rescue front it has been incredibly busy. Whilst the number of takings have been fewer last season, the severity/complexity of the taskings we have been called to has jumped up a notch or two requiring crews to really apply their ingenuity and surf life saving skill "beyond the manual" and it has been incredible to observe.

Rescue 1: *Little Bay Rescue:*

On New Years Eve the craft was tasked to Little Bay by SurfCom following reports of a rock fisherman who had fallen into the water in dangerous seas.

Surf Rescue 30 charged into Little Bay (it was low tide and yours truly was slightly worried about touching up the reef on the speedy entrance into the Bay!) just as the unconscious patient was being pulled to the beach by a Randwick Lifeguard who had retrieved the patient from the water.

The Randwick Lifeguard and Surf Rescue 30's Ben Heenan (Coogee SLSC) commenced CPR with the Karl Solomonson prepping the defibrillator.

Despite best efforts, the team could not get a shockable rhythm with our defib and the paramedics then attempted defibrillation with their defibrillator. Again no shockable rhythm. CPR continued for 15-20 minutes with the Randwick Lifeguard, Ben Heenan and the Ambulance Paramedic tag teaming by which time the Toll Air Ambulance Rescue 23 had landed on St Michaels Golf Course. Only when the Toll Rescue 203 doctor had administered adrenalin could the team obtain a shockable rhythm. We transferred the patient on SR30 Titanium stokes litter by which time the patient had a pulse and was on mechanical assisted breathing.

Before the patient was transferred to the ambulance the rescue doctor gathered the team, congratulated them on the team work he had just witnessed which gave this patient the best shot at survival. It was tremendous to see the cooperation between all emergency services and well done to all involved in this rescue.

Rescue 2: *Bondi Rescue*

Only a day later SurfCom tasked Surf Rescue 30 to MacKenzies Point with a report that a female was in difficulty on the rock platform after a nasty fall.

Karl Solomonson (Maroubra SLSC) Brittany Banks (North Bondi SLSC) and John Georgas (Maroubra SLSC) were the first on scene. Kitted up in their rescue wetsuits and Gath Helmets they hitched a ride on a Jet ski to the cliff base with penthrane, first aid kit and Oxy Viva (in our new floating dry bag) and clambered up the rocks in difficult conditions - all without incident thanks to hours of training and practice. Brittany being a not only a terrific rescue crew but an Emergency Department trauma nurse was able to take control of the situation immediately to stabilise and reassure the patient (who was being treated for suspected broken legs, ankles and internal injuries). Incredibly the patient refused pain management offered.

Meanwhile John Georgas worked with Police Rescue on an safe evacuation plan using a stokes litter and which required Surf Rescue 30's crew. John thought laterally about how to extract the patient safely and with minimum upset to the patient and consulted with Police Rescue on his plan. Again this was a great piece of rescue work by all involved and worthy of special recognition.



Rescue 3: *Garie Beach bushfires and evacuations*

The crew was enjoying a Saturday afternoon patrolling. Whilst off the "Bra" the crew received a call from SurfCom that there was a large bushfire down South (out of our area) and the Police had requested assistance to assist with the possible evacuation of people in the National Park. Fortunately the Skipper on board was an "old salt" from the Shire (Brad Taylor) who knows the area like the back of his hand, and with our new FLIR/GPS this meant that the crew could make this passage safely and securely.

The Trip South took about 50 minutes and when the crews arrived on scene the crews

were directed to the infamous figure of 8 pools where day-trippers and holiday-makers were enjoying themselves, blissfully unaware of the approaching bushfire dangers on the other side of the road. The crews were directed to round up the holiday-makers on the rocks and gather them together to assist prep for an evacuation. Surf Rescue Crew swam across to the rocks, gathered the public together and escorted them back to the main assembly evacuation point where police took over. It was a long day. The crew retrieved the craft at Gunamatta Bay (thanks to Chesh for taking the truck and trailer to Port Hacking to meet the crews) and they were off the water at around 8:30PM. Throw in a flat tire going through the airport tunnel and the crews got back to base around 9:30pm. Big effort team - and well done on an outstanding job.

Rescue 4: *Botany Bay after hours callout*

Monday evening at around 7:15pm, the Surf Rescue 30 Executive were at Maroubra SLSC for a meeting when a page came across requesting the Duty Skipper call SLS duty officer.

There was a report of a missing swimmer/diver in Botany Bay and could we make our way down to the base.

The callout crew was tasked with Steve Cheshier (Maroubra, Skipper), Tom Wallace (Coogee, Driver); Nixy Krite (Sth Maroubra, Rescue Crew); and John Georgas (Maroubra, Rescue Crew). On scene were Water Police and Aviation Rescue with police and paramedics on shore.

The crew prepped the craft, launched at Botany Bay and proceeded to the location about 10 minutes from the Foreshore Road boat ramp and assisted in the search. The search lasted around 20 minutes before the patient was eventually located. This was a particularly tough rescue tasking for all involved for a variety of reasons and our volunteer surf lifesavers performed above and beyond, doing not only themselves proud, but the Group, their Surf-Clubs and Surf Lifesaving. By the time they returned to the base it was nearing 11pm, with our Captain and crews not getting to bed until nearly 2am.

This is just a snapshot of some of the courageous taskings our crews have been involved with. Their leadership, focus and "can do" attitude of our volunteer rescue crews should make us all very proud.

QUICK HITS

Training, Ocean swims and Maintenance

Training has been proceeding at a frenetic pace this year. In fact we have had to put a hold on further crew until we have trained our current squads.

A big welcome and congrats to Jake McDonald (Maroubra SLSC) and Doug Lucas (Palm Beach - yes, Home & Away territory!) who passed their rescue crew exam in 2017.

Likewise well done to Darren Tannock (South Maroubra SLSC) and Patrick Moore (Coogee SLSC) who are also now rescue crew.

Last but not least, we welcome aboard to the team the boys from Ocean Beach SLSC Ryan Chiswell & Matt Calbert. These guys are contesting the award for the crew who travels the furthest to be on patrol. We have Dean from Palm Beach, Andrew from Jarvis Bay and Jedd from the far-West.

Finally, well done to Julien Vincent (Coogee) and John Georgas (Maroubra)- both of whom attained their Offshore Driver's Award. Likewise, a big well done to Darren and Jake again who after several months of winter training attained their driver's awards

Over the winter months we have several Skippers, Driver and Rescue Crew in training and who will be ready to do their awards. We will keep up the training and we ask skippers to lend an hand if they are able - afterall many hands make light work.

Surf Rescue 30 Hosts NZ SLS guest and Far North Coast

Surf Rescue 30 hosted 57 Mid North Coast/South Coast surf lifesavers earlier this year!

Surf Rescue 30 Vice Captain Rosie Taliano delivered a presentation to the Group at our base at Malabar along with Surf Rescue

30 members Karl Solomonson & Tom Barker.

Following the 'preso' there was an opportunity for some very enthusiastic lifesavers to crawl all over the boat. These surf Lifesavers will be our future leaders and it was terrific to have them on board to better understand all the assets surf lifesaving has to offer.

Again, thank you for coming to visit everyone! We hope you enjoyed your "cooks tour" of our operation.

We were also very happy to have a representative from NZ SLS spend some time with us recently. It was a fantastic opportunity to swap intelligence on the philosophy of our support services v their services.

Some unscheduled maintenance

Towards the tail end of this season we had some unscheduled maintenance, The hydraulic steering required an overhaul and there was an issue with water entering the rear compartment of the craft - courtesy of a faulty deck plate and seal. Additionally the trailer had its brake compressor replaced and while the boat was at Hunts Marine we took the opportunity to get our motors serviced. Last but not least some intermittent tilt issues on our starboard motor have been rectified with the installation of a new tilt motor. Our 4WD has also recently been serviced by Suttons.

Over the coming winter months there might be some minor maintenance but we have been fortunate to get stuck into some winter training ...

Mid-North Coast and South Coast visit



Training

With the boat now in good shape have been well placed to do some winter training with new crew, drivers and skippers.

We have encouraged drivers and aspiring skippers to undertake the navigation course and Jedd has kindly agreed to facilitate a number of Group tutorial sessions to provide feedback to crew.

We also urge new crew to get on board and sign up for the training sessions

End of Seasons Video and 2018 preso night

For those of use who are right brained, if you have not jumped on line to check the end of 2017/2018 season round up compiled by Rosie, check it out here <https://www.facebook.com/surfrescue30/videos/1599827493448178/?t=5> as usual very impressive, capturing the essence of our spirit!

SAVE THE DATE! This years Preso night is scheduled for **Saturday 4 August 2018 at Chalk Cafe McKeon Maroubra - kick off at 7pm** (more details to follow shortly!) This is a great fun-filled night celebrating a great season so we look forward to seeing you there!

Well done again Brad

Well done to Brad Taylor who received Sydney Branch Offshore Rescue Crew Award. This caps off a successful season by Brad.

Our Base

Some great news on this front. Things are progressing well and we will update the Team shortly.

Oxy Vivas, First Aid Kits & Defibs

- These will be serviced and restocked over the next few months
- Lifejackets will be serviced.
- Our public access defib at located at the front of the base has had its defib pads replaced.

New Gear

Over the winter season we will be changing out our older personal protective equipment - wetsuits and wet weather jackets which have served us well. over the last couple of years

SR 30 NEWSLETTER

Cnr Fishermans Road and Dacre Streets, Malabar, Sydney NSW 2036

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS FOR 2017/18

Of course all the great work would not be possible without our terrific supporters for 2017/18 - a big thank you!



Our 1st full female rescue crew!

