



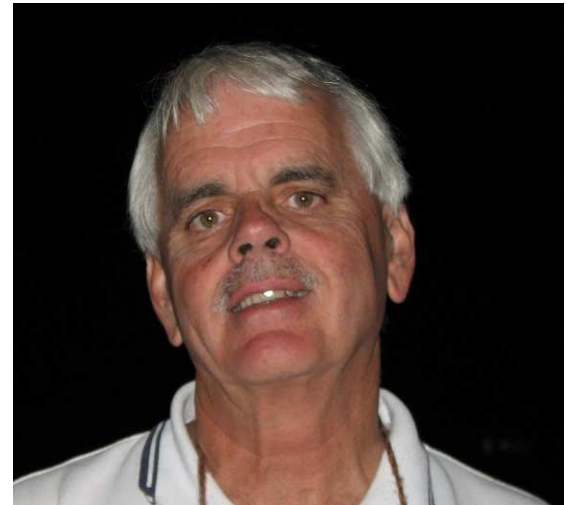
From the Bridge

Boat security: Yesterday one of our members reported that the fuel cap on his boat had been hit, probably with a screwdriver, and was not screwed down properly i.e. an improvised tool had been used to open it. Our summation from this is that someone had tried to take fuel from his boat. Were they after petrol rather than diesel? This boat looks like one that might have a petrol inboard? We don't know if any fuel was taken, but someone had interfered with the boat.

Our basic principles still stand. Get to know the owners and users of the boats near you. Watch and report what is happening, particularly on wet, foggy, miserable nights.

We have received a request from one of our members to meet earlier, closer to public transport and maybe on a different night. If there are others who would like to pursue this, please make your views known to the executive.

At our last meeting we were pleased to meet the new Marine Operations Manager for Middle Harbour Yacht Club, Alistair Copley. His contact with the MHYC members will be another good



source of information on activity in our area.

The combined meeting at the Water Police base of the four Marine Watches was a pleasurable and worthwhile day. We were able to complete the agenda before lunch. Many future directions and issues were resolved, with a further similar meeting planned for next year. Larry Malone arranged and chaired this successful meeting. We thank Larry for this and very much appreciate his long term interest in and support of our Marine Watch. I will report in more detail at our next meeting.

I am pleased to advise that our guest speaker for the next meeting will be John Stinson from Marine Rescue. He has offered to talk about VHF radio and the developments in Digital Selective Calling. He will bring Don Alexander with him who is an experienced radio officer. We will also be updated on a new offshore tracking system CompassNet which will be introduced in November.

Thank you for your continued involvement in Marine Watch. Even if you can't attend the meetings we need and appreciate the network of people around our moorings.

Bob McClung (for Malcolm Bailey)
Zone Commander

Next Meeting

Members, friends and guests are invited to attend the meeting of
Marine Watch Middle Harbour

**Monday,
16th August, 2010
Middle Harbour Yacht Club
7:30pm**

**Guest Speakers
John Stinson and
Don Alexander
from
Marine Rescue NSW**

The meeting will be followed by a light supper



Lifejacket reforms to start in November 2010

New lifejacket rules to improve boating safety and reduce deaths from drowning will come into effect from 1 November 2010. Under the rules, people will be required to wear lifejackets at times of heightened risk.

The reforms are the result of a NSW Maritime discussion paper on the issue, which generated a strong response from the boating community with a record 3615 submissions.

The new rules for wearing lifejackets include:

- By children less than 12 years of age when:
 - in a vessel less than 4.8 metres;
 - when in an open area of a vessel less than 8 metres in length that is underway;
- By all boaters in a vessel less than 4.8 metres in the following heightened risk situations:
 - at night;
 - on open (ocean) waters;
 - on alpine waters; and
 - when boating alone;
- At times of 'Skipper Judgement and Direction' in 'heightened risk' situations such as when the weather worsens or the boat breaks down;
- When water-skiing or wakeboarding;
- When operating a canoe or kayak on:
 - enclosed waters, when more than 100 metres from shore; and
 - ocean waters.

There will be a 12-month advisory period while boaters get used to the new rules, where NSW Maritime will only penalise repeat offenders.

Marine Rescue NSW CompassNet



Marine Rescue NSW is proud to introduce "CompassNet", a far-reaching advance in marine radio safety services.

In addition to the proven lifesaving value of having Marine Rescue NSW know that you and your boat are out and due back at a specified time, "CompassNet" will also provide

increased operational benefits as well as financial incentives.

For example, family and friends to whom you have given your personal CompassNet call sign can keep up to date with your progress via the Internet.

"CompassNet" membership is \$50 yearly (inc GST). Marine Rescue NSW recognises that even this low cost of less than \$1 a week may make some boaters think twice about joining. However, Marine Rescue is committed to ensuring that the membership incentives being offered can not only cover this amount but significantly exceed it.

The new service has the potential to be either completely cost neutral for the member or it can provide cumulative financial advantages well in excess of the annual membership fee depending upon which benefits are taken up by the member.

What about the existing Radio Clubs like MRSS and associate memberships? There is no requirement for members of existing radio clubs to transfer to the new structure at the new fee if they do not wish to do so. All existing arrangements will remain in place to honour the commitments made between units and existing radio club members.

However Marine Rescue NSW is confident that the benefits and advantages of "CompassNet" will quickly become evident to all users of marine radios.

What if I'm not interested? Can I still Log On? The existing free provision of Log On/Log Off and Offshore Tracking Service will continue to be provided for all who so wish. These radio users will continue to provide all relevant details required for Log On/Log Offs and OTS each time the service is used.

What information must be supplied for a Log On? Marine Rescue NSW is required by NSW Water Police to obtain the following details from a skipper when Logging On.

Identification Details

- Vessel name or Call Sign
- Registration Number.
- Current location (latitude/longitude if available)
- Communications on board VHF - 27MHz - HF
- MMSI (Maritime Mobile Service Identity) if allocated*
- Mobile telephone number
- Vessel type, length, hull colour, and topsides colour
- Where vessel is kept/launched
- Shore contact name and shore contact number

New Trip Details

- Place of departure and time
- Destination and purpose of trip
- Expected time of return

"CompassNet" members will have all of their Identification Details stored on a secure Marine Rescue database accessible by Marine Rescue units anywhere on the NSW coast. Only the New Trip Details will be needed at Log On. This will save a lot of time and keep members' personal information confidential.

* MMSI is a unique nine-digit code set into DSC-capable radio transceivers and/or AIS transceivers to identify your vessel.

Register your interest. "CompassNet" will commence operations from 1 November 2010.

All boaters, including existing radio service members, are invited to register their interest in obtaining more information about "CompassNet" with no obligation. All who register will receive regular "CompassNet" email bulletins advising details and progress of the new structure and demonstrating the value and appeal of the benefits and offers involved.

Check out Marine Rescue NSW at

<http://www.marinerescuensw.com.au/>

Taskforce to crack down on docks

NICK MCKENZIE AND DYLAN WELCH

The Age, July 28, 2010

ORGANISED crime and corruption on the waterfront will be targeted by an elite police taskforce in the first systemic attempt to root out criminality in the maritime sector in 30 years.

The recent launch of the joint federal and New South Wales police taskforce - the first attack on waterfront criminality since the 1980 Costigan Royal Commission - will increase pressure on the federal government to close gaping holes in its maritime security.

The deplorable state of waterfront security is also a key challenge in Australia's fight against terrorism, with police intelligence linking local terror cells with criminality on the waterfront and the importation of drugs and weapons.

The taskforce follows long-held concerns by senior police that crime syndicates easily evade detection when importing drugs or weapons in shipping containers due to help from corrupt maritime insiders.

The concerns are backed up in a confidential police document circulated last year among Queensland law enforcement officials that reveals how a Chinese crime syndicate easily recruited a well-connected waterfront insider to move contraband through major Australian ports.

The Age has confirmed that despite numerous criminal convictions for weapons possession and theft, this maritime worker still holds a federal government maritime security identification card (MSIC), giving him access to sensitive areas.

The Port Crime Task Force will be led by the Australian Federal Police and will include investigators from Customs, the Australian Crime Commission, NSW Police and the NSW Crime Commission. It will focus primarily on the NSW maritime sector but sources said if it was successful it might be rolled out nationwide.

A senior policing official said the taskforce was to deal with the "elephant in the room" - the failure of government agencies, including Customs, to have a meaningful impact on small cliques of maritime insiders who work with crime groups.

The problem is exacerbated by poor co-operation between private and government security providers, and the fact some maritime workers, including freight forwarders and customs brokers, are not required to have maritime security cards.

Examples of the lax security provided by some private security firms is highlighted in leaked documents from maritime giant Patrick. A March 2009 email from a Patrick manager showed him

warning security subcontractors at the Townsville port that a "good source" had tipped him off that a supposedly surprise government security inspection was imminent.

Maritime Union of Australia national secretary Paddy Crumlin said he supported the inquiry as long as it was not a witch hunt. "[It needs to] reach out broadly to cover foreign seafarers and cover container parks and all areas in the freight forwarding industry," he said.

The federal government this year increased the number of offences that can be used to deny maritime workers an MSIC. The move came after a report from the Office of Transport Safety had found the MSIC system was failing.

Last year, the Australian Crime Commission ended a three-year probe that concluded organised criminal networks had infiltrated Australia's ports and airports and were exploiting significant security gaps.

Marine Watch Meetings

We would like to hear from members about our meeting venue, dates and time. Currently, meetings are held at 7.00pm on the third Monday of each month (except January) at Middle Harbour Yacht Club.

Summer meetings have started a little later due to the number of members who are involved in twilight races.

Would you prefer a change? If you have a suggestion, please contact one of the committee members with your ideas and preferences.

The Spit to Parriwi Park Bushwalk

Saturday 18 September, 9am-12pm

Come and explore the wonderful bushland around The Spit and Parriwi Park at Mosman where you can learn about the native plants and animals and enjoy the spectacular views of Middle Harbour. This is an area often driven past on the way to Manly but here is your chance to stop and take a look.



Bookings to Mosman Bushcare 9978 4038 or email bushcare@mosman.nsw.gov.au

Please RSVP by 10 September.

Household Chemical Cleanout

CleanOut is a FREE service for the safe disposal of a range of common household chemicals, many of which could cause harm if not disposed of correctly. In addition, many of these materials can be recycled or reused, so not only are you helping to reduce waste and pollution, you are also helping in resource recovery efforts.

For more information including a full list of locations and dates go to <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/households/cleanoutguide.htm/>

Two local locations are:-

Sat 4, Sun 5 Sept 2010 9am-3:30pm
Hosted by Warringah Council,
Warringah Aquatic Centre car park,
Aquatic Drive, Frenchs Forest

Sat 13, Sun 14 Nov 2010 9am-3:30pm
Hosted by Kuring-gai Council,
St Ives Showground,
Mona Vale Road, St Ives

Diary

- 16 Aug Marine Watch Meeting 19:30 hours NSC
- 29 Aug Winter Series Race 6 12:00 hours
- 20 Sep Marine Watch Meeting 19:30 hours NSC
- 18 Oct Marine Watch Meeting 19:30 hours NSC

Marine Watch Contacts

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Vessel Recovery at Killarney

Recovery of a sunken boat at Killarney on 8th June 2010.

Photos courtesy of Dick McCaughey

