

BEYOND THE BREAK

NEWSLETTER

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VIEW FROM THE SKIPPERS' SEAT

I rolled out of bed the other day, grabbed a coffee and glanced at the paper. The lead story read... "***Danger Ahead: World Bank Chief says the world has moved into a more dangerous phase of economic uncertainty because of the European Sovereign Debt Crisis according to World Bank President Robert Zoellick ...***"

Yeah, yeah, yeah I thought to myself - this is a world away from me in Randwick. But then, almost an hour later, I received a telephone call - one of those 'cold calls' that normally infuriates me.

However, what transpired caused me to stop, pause and think. Let me explain.

The caller identified herself as being from the Careflight Rescue Helicopter Service. She indicated that they had lost their major corporate sponsor and was calling in an effort to make up some of the shortfall in sponsorship money and wanted to know if would I be interested in purchasing a Careflight Bear Doctor. I was gobbsmacked.

Now I certainly don't profess to know too much about Careflight or anything about its sponsorship relationships but this call made me realise how interconnected we all are and seemed to strike a chord with me. In our global economy, we are told when America sneezes, the rest of the world catches a cold. Cascaded in a corporate sense, read companies tighten up their sponsorships and review their discretionary expenditure. So the crisis playing out in Europe and the US it seems is continuing to impact community organisations regardless of where they operate: from Maroochy to Malabar. No community group is immune. Relationships are more important than ever and, to put it bluntly, your brand is no guarantee of success.

At Offshore 3 we run a tight and lean ship. Our fiscal prudence, has ensured that we are well placed as a community based rescue organisation heading into volatile economic times ahead. The passion of our crews and members will continue to be key - from raffles to rescues could be our catchcry. And let's face it, the importance of volunteer groups such as Offshore 3 are integral to our sense of Community. So important, I realised after I made the mistake of reaching for the TV remote only to be confronted by riots in London, Birmingham and Manchester - but this is a tale for another day. Thank heaven's for community otherwise I think I might go back to bed for awhile!

Oh, and yes, I purchased that Careflight Bear Doctor and my daughter has caller her "Beau", French for 'beautiful'. Robert Zoellick might even crack a wry smile, by the simple irony of this purchase and my daughter's choice of name in these uncertain times.



Prace's Corner

It has been a very busy off-season and a lot of work has been done in preparation. With the new boat here and now ready to hit the water it is essential that all Skippers and Drivers complete training and familiarisation on the water before going on patrol so **please** try to

make the upcoming training. The planning that has gone into the new boat has been very time consuming and driving this project has been Richard, so a big thank you Rich on a job well done.

Also deserving of mentions in despatches is Tresne for spending a day at the shed while our radios were reprogrammed and, of course, for setting up our online roster - a big task. Now its all systems go so please logon and add your name.

This Season we will go back to a paper log as we will need to move the boat out of the shed to carry out our checks and set up thanks to Matt E for creating this.

When at the shed you will notice we have a new access platform for the boat. I ask that it is used inside and outside the shed to access the boat. Please do not step on the mudguards of the trailer to access the boat as they will bend out of shape. If you are away from the shed and need to get into the craft please use the rear dive ladder.

The christening is set to be a good afternoon at Coogee and thanks to Karl for driving this, not an easy job with the number of important guests that need to be invited.

A quick update on the base, there has been some fine tuning of the plans which are now finalised and logged with the Department of Lands and hopefully we will have some good news before Christmas.

The boat ramp has been widened and is much easier and safer to use. Skippers should still take the same line at the top when starting to reverse down.

The Thursday night raffles will continue this season so if anyone is interested in selling a few tickets and then having a quiet ale and some dinner after we normally kick off around 730 on Thursdays.

One thing I am keen to do is increase the social side of the group this year. Let me know your thoughts

Finally, enjoy the new season - Prace

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Around the Traps

Preso Night

Well the our annual ale and preso night came around a little earlier this year. OK,



there were some double ups. Sergio appeared less than impressed with his *Powerboating for Dummies* Book; Prace received a dose of Berocca to ensure he didn't end up

too under the weather; Steve is still being reminded about his sea sickness after the rescue from hell; Pete got the Little Mr Grumpy award; Nick received the Little Mr Bumps Cup for a torn muscle which saw him shore bound for most of the season; and our new crewie Shaun was the dark horse recipient of the traditional "Aussie Boys" buggie smugglers - and a potential dinner at Bondi Icebergs.

On a more serious note, Crew of the Year for 2010/2011 went to Chris Dolman - and as Matt E indicated it was a big effort by Chris who was always "ready aye ready" and did an outstanding job on patrol and during callouts. Importantly, Chris was always willing to lend a hand if things needed to be done around the place. Well done Chris on a well deserved award!



Gear Inspection

The first aid back packs (Boat and 4WD) have been checked and replenished and the OxyVivas have been reinspected ready for gear inspection. Gear inspection is set down for the morning of 10 September 2011. Anyone who can lend a hand please give Gary a buzz.



Our new Kevlcat

Well its arrived and the work has begun in earnest to prepare it for the start of the season. Here's a summary of what we've been doing. There's been a bit going on to get us ready.

NSW trailer registration - the trailer had to be weighed at a public weighbridge (without the boat on it just to make life easy!) and the trailer then headed up to Garry's Auto Electrics to get it's blue slip. Only after this occurred could we then proceed to registration. Thanks to Pete and John Restuccia for helping get the weighbridge receipt and the blue slip for rego.

The trailer electrical leads have modified to ensure the housing is well clear of rogue swells on launch and retrievals which were wetting the electricals and causing some grief. Gary attended to this detail.

Next cab off the rank was survey. The law's pretty clear: we cannot use the craft until we have the survey book - no "ifs" or "buts" on this. Kevlcat reported they were having a communication breakdown with their independent marine surveyor who is responsible for producing the Stability Book for NSW Maritime - a critical report - (incidentally, there were 3 Sydney Kevlacats, including another rescue vessel at Port Kembla, all like us without survey). Now the boat had passed the test - and we know this because the NSW Maritime surveyor happened to be on our boat at the time the testing was conducted with Kevlcat - but the paperwork and Survey log are critical. We've worked through this issue with Kevlcat and the NSW Maritime Surveyor is now processing our survey log.

Finally there was the Surf UHF radio. We got new radios in the boat, but apparently the Surf UHF Radio needed to be reprogrammed because of mandatory SLS upgrades. Gary has attended to this with Metro Communications. Again thanks mate.



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The ramp upgrade Works

Our ramp is a key part of our operations - in terms of a response times, a few minutes saved on a launch can be the difference between life and a life lost.

Our poor old ramp is often forgotten. This Winter we have embarked upon upgrade works - starting with a widening of the access road down to the ramp, a new spoon drain (minimising damaged tyres) a new security gate at the top of the ramp, removal of the old light pole at the bottom of the ramp - which often made threading a needle look comparatively easy when compared to reversing the truck and trailer and boat through the bottom gate.

New Radios

Crews will notice that we have purchased some new radio communication equipment for this season. We've purchased several new Kenwood Portables, fitted a new Surf UHF in the truck following issues last season with the reprogramming of the UHF radio which was a "hand me down" from our old craft and approximately 8 years old with a bit of saltwater corrosion (at least according to the technician who did the reprogramming);

and we have taken the opportunity of installing a Marine VHF in the 4WD and whip antenna on the bullbar. Additionally, all our radios needed to be reprogrammed in accordance with SLS guidelines recently released by Sydney Branch.

4WD rebranding

We have elected to remove the "old" Lifesaver Rescue branding from the 4WD in keeping with the new brandbox on the craft. Although we were under any pressure to remove this it looked a little odd and was inconsistent with our new brandbox when the truck was connected to the boat. The result is much neater and has already earned some positive comments from third parties.

Training on the new craft

As we alluded to in the last newsletter Kevlacat has kindly offered come down and ensure that our skippers and drivers are trained in the operation of a new craft. This mandatory training, provided by the guys who design and make the boats is critical as we head into the season. We'll organise a BBQ following training. Details will follow shortly by SMS and email.

Offshore 3 Christening

- * "City of Randwick III" will be officially Christened by the Mayor of Randwick, Councillor Murray Matson at 2pm on the Coogee Promenade (near the corner of Arden Street and Coogee Bay Road), with Father Terry, from St Brigids Parish, Coogee performing a traditional maritime blessing. Federal, State and Local government dignitaries will attending as well as sponsors.
- * Following the christening, refreshments will be served at the Seabreeze Room, on the 1st floor of the Coogee Bay Hotel.
- * Crews are asked to please wear their blue polo shirt provided to them on the presentation night.

Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.

~Mohammed Ali

Patrols

OK guys, the patrol roster is up again on the Sydney Branch Website - not long to go now until we get offshore3.com.au up and running (heard this before but they seem to be struggling with the rostering module) ... until then please log on and put your name onto the roster.

New Patrol Log

There is a manual patrol log for crews to complete this season and the log is identical to SurfGuard and will allow it to be completed on the craft. Please complete this and the details will be logged onto SurfGuard by Gary or Tresne.

And last but not least - enjoy your new rescue craft!

Take some time to get to know her - this might be doing some launches and retrievals in Botany Bay in the early stages of the season, performing some simulated rescues and practising your general seamanship skills.