

BEYOND THE BREAK

View from the skippers' seat

"City of Randwick III" - making light work of the swell off Sydney's Maroubra



Stronger, lighter smarter, cleaner ... are all words which help describe our next generation rescue vessel. Our new Kevlacat, is hand laid with Kevlar (yep, that's the bullet proof material) giving the hull increased strength without added weight. It carries almost 200 litres more fuel and fresh water yet remarkably it tips the scales at less weight than our previous craft. The new Surf branding is something we should all be proud of when we see the craft patrolling off Randwick and

the layout is custom designed to our requirements - a far cry from our first rescue cat where the crew all sat on "eskies" - not an esky in sight on this state-of-the-art rescue beauty! All this effort translates to a fit for purpose rescue craft complete with less fuel consumption and better engine efficiency and handling - good for our hip-pocket and the environment.

This is the future of surf lifesaving's support operations - and now that's got to be worth applauding.

Prace's Corner ...

It's been a good start to the season - we're all on a learning curve with a new craft and, by and large, I'm proud of the way people are beginning to step up to the plate. I'd ask all crews to please read the whiteboards at the base - many of the changes are highlighted on the boards complete with photos on how to do it. They are meant to help you understand your new craft.

A couple of points to remember from an operational point of view. Please:

1. lock both port and starboard door latches (top and bottom) and ensure the bolt is in the lock position to ensure the weight of the doors is distributed evenly;
2. if something brakes or needs attention please log it and phone me - that way we can fix it promptly; and
3. one page in the patrol book per patrol.

Thank you to everyone for all their support this year. Finally, Merry Christmas and a Happy & Safe New year to our crews and supporters!
Prace



Is that a mooring buoy or are you happy to see me - Prace re-laying our new buoy at Malabar

THE CHAMPAGNE WAS NOT EVEN DRY ON THE DECK ...

... and Offshore 3 was tasked to two after hours rescues in its first week of service following the christening.

The first tasking was on the Monday morning after the christening when "City of Randwick III" was tasked in 3 metre swells to a rock fisherman who had been swept off infamous "yellow rock" off northern Malabar point. Our crews were out in treacherous seas for several hours participating in the search with water police and other rescue services. Sadly, the missing fisherman was not located. Thanks to John Restuccia, Steve, Jarrod and Nick. Big effort guys!



Then the following week the craft was tasked out of hours to a vessel in distress off St Michael's golf course (we were diverted from a tasking to Dover Heights). In this second incident there happened to be 5 skippers on the boat - a case of too many cooks spoiling the broth and a potential recipe for disaster some might say! We worked with the Randwick Lifeguards and assisted the middle age skipper and his crew - his wife and 14 year old son. His 20 foot boat was wrecked on the rocks. This incident had all the hallmarks of a terrible family tragedy unfolding. Well done to our Captain Prace who donned the wetsuit, clambered on the rocks and verified all had been accounted for. This is what we are all about. A job well done!

LOVE BITES - RUNNING REPAIRS

We've had a couple of bumps and scrapes to start us off. The starboard engine cowling has been sent for some repair work following an intimate moment with a pontoon; and then during an after-hours callout for a missing Kayaker at around 6:30pm on an extremely low mid week tide, the trailer popped off the four wheel drive at the bottom of the ramp causing damage to the starboard motor skegg and some damage to one of the props. Now, our props are a bit like the tyres on a car, so we decided to bite the bullet and purchase a complete new set and the old set will be re-machined - meaning that we have a spare set at all times, and remembering that because the engines are counter rotating we need to ensure we have the props matched to the correct motor so we need two!

To cap it off, our 4WD spat the dummy at the local BP service station and decided enough was enough and it would go no further. The culprit, a fuse, and the suspect according to the auto

electrician was the new irrigation system on the 4WD. Problem now sorted.

Finally, the GPS backlight decided to play up, meaning we could not actually see the screen. We spoke with Kevlacat and the Furanao Rep and this was repaired under warranty - the good news being that the Furanao Rep lives locally and has offered to train the drivers and skippers on the new system. Bonus!

Obviously running repairs can be costly and time consuming - as someone has to take the time to get the craft repaired and battling peak hour traffic to Hunts or Splits is not fun. Thanks to Pete, Nick, Karl, Matt and Prace for assisting at various points to ensure the craft remains in service and repairs are undertaken immediately. A gentle reminder to everyone, when on patrol remember:

- Do it safely or not at all;
- There's always time to do it right; and
- When in doubt - find out!

Remember - prepare and prevent not repair and repent.



Top: riding on air: on the plane the bulls lift clean of the water - reducing drag and fuel consumption.

Below Divine intervention - Father Terry from St Brigid's Parish, Coogee performs the traditional maritime blessing at the Christening at Coogee Beach

CITY OF RANDWICK III - AT A GLANCE

Red and Blue emergency LED lights - a requirement for our our involvement in the Botany Bay Maritime Disaster Management Plan

Fresh water shower with on board 60 litre water tank to wash rear deck and for crew consumption (for windscreen washer also)

Happy Captain Prace (Maroubra) with equally proud Vice Captain Tresne on right (Maroubra) and some of our crew- Tamara (top deck) - check out those smiles!

Note - middle windscreen wiper

Let there be light - there's now plenty of natural light in the front cabin thanks to those big windows for those of us who suffer from cabin fever when we have to go below.

New Surf Lifesaving Brand box.

Alloy trailer with irrigation tank with wash spray to "dump" some fresh water on the trailer's running gear (brakes and componentry) and get rid of that nasty salt following launches when the craft is on patrol.

WELL DONE TO OUR NEW CREWIES

It seemed like it might never occur. Poor Nick Kypreos (Maroubra) copped a bad injury last season whilst jet ski training. Nick successfully completed his crew exam on a fine Sunny Sunday a couple of weeks ago. Well done Nick and welcome aboard as a fully fledged crew. Also James Salecich (Coogee), well done on attaining your crewie certificate last weekend!



OUR NEW BASE

There's an old saying that a carelessly planned project takes at least three times longer to complete than expected. A carefully planned project only takes twice as long!

Well done to our architect Heather Morris from ARTAS Architects. It's taken us a while to get the tick of approval, but for those of us that have experienced the trials and tribulations of a rebuild first hand this probably comes as no surprise. However, we have now got our plans approved by the NSW Department of Lands - you little beauty! This is a terrific result.

Well done also Gary for his dogged determination and also to *Happy Planning*, town planners to the stars, for what must be one of the finest and most comprehensive Statement of Environmental Effects we have seen for many a while.

"So what happens next?", I hear you ponder.

Well, now that we have landowner's consent, the plans and ancillary documents will be lodged with Randwick City Council for Development Approval. With most places on skeleton staff until the end of January we will be aiming for this to be completed by Season's end. As Douglas Adams of *Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy* fame quipped, "I love deadlines - especially the swooshing sound they make as they fly past". Keep watching this space...

OUR RAMP

Check out the happy snaps. This work has been completed on time and on budget and our final report has been lodged with the Department of Sport and Recreation. Thanks to Karl for attending to this for us.

This work was quite involved. Essentially a widening of the ramp, some works at the base of the ramp, new security gates and removal of an old light pole which constrained us during launching. The effect has been incredible. The boat can now be on the water at least 10 minutes quicker regardless of who has to reverse it down the ramp. No longer will skippers have to draw short straws for who will reverse the 4 1/2 tonnes of boat and 4WD down the ramp - especially when those reversing gurus Gary and Pete are not around.



HAVING A WHALE OF A TIME...

This story is especially for Tresne, our VC, and whale and dolphin die hard. This shot captured on the Offshore 3's rescue camera shows a whale breaching about 50 metres away off Malabar. Think this is close?

Well what about the gun crew of Gravy and Lucky John who were sitting off Clovelly Beach when they felt a dull thud

and the bow lift slightly. Fearing the worst and perhaps having hit a submerged sea container our intrepid and shocked crew inspected the vessel and motors for signs of damage. No damage and nothing in the water. Phew. A mystery. Then 10 metres away a whale eyeballed them. Well done boys, this is definitely a first.

CALLOUTS



A rock fishermen is lucky to be alive following a search and rescue off Dover Heights last month. Offshore 3 was tasked through 1300SURF at around 9pm and the crew was on the water and en route within 25 minutes of the first call arriving at the scene within 45 minutes of the initial call. Lucky for this particular fisho he was wearing a light jacket with a whistle attached and used his whistle which was heard by residents at the top of the cliff. The duty callout crew carried out a search - as the initial reports indicted 3-4 people in the water and a possible boating incident. Well done to Gary (Skipper); Chesh (Driver) and Rich and Jarrod (Crew) and Matt who manned the 4WD and retrieved us at Rose Bay (a safe option with the weather closing in and a rising swell and a low tide). Thanks also to John R and George as Duty officers. It was successful tasking and test of the new craft's capabilities at night. Well done!

AROUND THE TRAPS

EMERGENCY RESCUE
FAMILIARISATION DAY

Several weeks ago Offshore 3 was invited to attend familiarisation day at NSW Marine Area Command, Botany Bay Water Police - we're easy to spot in the photo

Offshore 3 flew the colours for Surf Lifesaving and we attended with Ron Camilleri as the official Sydney Branch Representative (in the red shirt leading the charge). It was a great morning and other participants included, Marine Rescue NSW, the SES, Aviation Rescue (based at Sydney Airport), the Fire Brigade, and Randwick Lifeguards. It is amazing to see first hand what other services have to offer and reinforces our ability as a front line lifesaving service - our craft packs an incredible amount into its compact 6.5 metres in terms of lifesaving equipment and this is what sets us apart. Of particular interest was Marine Rescue's purchase of a 9 metre Kevlcat - built at the same time as Offshore 3. This craft was fitted with FLIR or thermal imaging technology - incredible stuff and these systems have come a long way in the last decade - to the extent that they might make radar systems obsolete. For search and rescue, the beauty is that they can be tuned to focus on a patient's core body temperature offering an invaluable extra set of eyes on these rescue taskings.

FRIDGE MONEY

The base fridge has been restocked with loads of goodies - try that eighties classic TAB that launched Elle's career; a Cactus Cooler; or a Mello Yellow.

\$20.00 is all it costs for the season and you can help yourself to softies or bottled water whilst on patrol. Put your moula in the fridge and write your name on the board so we know you've paid. Got a sweet tooth? Chocolate bars at

\$1.00 each are still great value - please throw your coins into the fridge so we can continue to provide this.

After patrol, if you want a "sink some suds" we have our now famous beers of the world. This season, the emphasis is on beers with a nautical theme including "light" ales for those who travel from the Shire or the South Coast to do patrols. If you want a beer after patrol (and you are legal) a gold coin donation is all it takes (and to the frequent flyer international travellers amongst us - no Pesos in the pot please - we have a collection of currencies in the fridge from who knows where and our bank is getting stroppy!)

Raffles

We are still raffling at the Coogee Bay Hotel - we aim for every second Thursday. Give Lucky John a bell if you are interested. We'll keep you updated to how we are doing during the season.

New Website

Our new website is now up and running in all its glory. Check it out at www.offshore3.com.au. We'll be adding *bits and bobs* as things happen. Log in for patrols can be accessed via the member login page on the website. Usernames and passwords have not changed so check it out. Watch out for the new iPhone App coming soon!

Our old Boat

Our Noosa Cat has gone to auction and will hopefully find a good new home following a successful surf lifesaving career. Following the work by Splits (a bit of botox and removal of the SLSA decals) she came up a treat! Timing couldn't be better as we roll into summer and people start thinking about that new boat they've always wanted.

Meeting minutes - for those crew who could not attend our recent meeting - minutes will be sent separately. These meetings are an important communication with crews - please take some time to read and absorb guys!

Finally, the executive wish our crews and supporters a safe and happy New Year and Australia Day, and our VC Tresne has the last word ... don't forget to check the roster occasionally.

Spend some time with...



Chriso -
Crew of
the year
2010/2011
Garie SLSC

What's your favourite
movie

Saw Series. Saw I is my favourite.

Favourite food?

After the Chrissy feast I don't want to think about food, but at the moment I have a thing for Beef Pad Thai.

My favourite superhero?

Incredible hulk

I'd never leave home
without ...

Giving my two daughters a cuddle

If I won a million dollars
I'd ...

... buy a ... oh no, there goes that idea. My wife just found out!

Callout Crews

Just a quick reminder to Offshore 3 callout crews we are now heading into what has traditionally been the busiest part of the season for after hour callout taskings - January and February. Duty Skippers please keep an eye on the after hours callout roster, and in the event the craft is tasked after hours the duty skipper will make the initial call to the Life Saving Co-ordinator to discuss the job and do a risk analysis of the tasking. Callout Crew should prepare to attend the base if available. And to rostered PM crews, please ensure the boat is set up for night callouts - this makes the job so much easier when we arrive at the shed at night.

And a reminder that Skipper and Driver night training will kick off shortly so we all know the process when tasked out of patrol hours.

Welcome to our new trainee crews



Please make our new trainees feel welcome and skippers and drivers and qualified crews can

assist by spending some time with the guys and girls ensuring they develop a solid understanding of our operations. Around the traps here are some names to the faces you might see:

Matt Harper (Maroubra)

Callum Good (South Maroubra)

Matt Harrison (Coogee)

Jerome Dillion- Baker (Coogee)

Steve Demholm

Joel Wiseman

Mark Tesoriero

Jay Hartley

Allen Chafkin

Formal training will recommence in mid January - details will be emailed/SMS'd shortly to the dozen or so new trainee crews.



Confirmed Dates for your Dance Card

4 February 2012

SLSS Lifesaving Championships and Open Carnival - Coogee.

26 January 2012

Havaianas Australia day Thong Challenge- North Bondi - craft has been asked to attend and attendance is confirmed.

Crew News

Young Pete Fuller is recuperating after a work place injury and a nasty scare which saw him hospitalised in intensive care and in a bad way for a while. The excuses people come up with to get out of patrols!

Jarrold Robertson is expecting his first shortly - good luck guys.

And Brent Armitage and Ash have just had a baby daughter - Charlee. Congrats.

Postcard from the Coogee Bay Hotel

[Coogee Bay Hotel](#) - The measure of a life, is not its duration but its donation. So let's particularly support those organisations who support Surf Lifesaving in our community - and this applies to all our sponsors! Remember Ansett Australia - yep, that's the airline that went to the wall over a decade ago. Well, they were our biggest corporate sponsor at the time and what many people forget is that when these corporates have "issues" it has very real flow on effects to volunteer community groups like ours. Streuth, we can recall that even the receivers sought to get their hands on equipment donations

as potential preference payments at the time. The CBH stepped into the void left by Ansett and the CBH has been proudly associated with the Randwick Surf Rescue Boat service for the past decade culminating in the recent Boat Christening on the beautiful Coogee Beach promenade following which we were fortunate enough to experience the hospitality of Tony Williams and his team at the Bay's Seaview room first hand.

This summer the Bay is opening up **The Balcony**, a new premium bar overlooking Coogee Beach (where we held our post-Christening function). Sink some suds or relax with your favourite bubbly on the balcony of Coogee Bay Hotel with breathtaking ocean views, great entertainment and great company (and you can watch our intrepid crews on patrol!). The Balcony is open every Saturday and Sunday in January.

Following our summer raffles our crews often enjoy a **Cook Your Own steak**. Let's face it, there's something quintessentially Australian about grabbing your steak and cooking it the way you like it on the barbecue in the beer garden overlooking Wedding Cake Island and the Pearl of the Pacific (aka Coogee) with friends.

And finally, for anyone wishing to organise their own special occasion, the Bay has a great package on offer. Book your celebration at the Bay and receive 12 bottles of Moët compliments of the Coogee Bay. Function rooms have their own private verandahs and overlook Coogee Beach. Now that's an offer that might even out-do our very own "beers of the world" promo back at the rescue base but please, don't mention this to Tony or his friendly team!

