

Recreational Vessels Advisory Group

Date:	Tuesday 10 February, 1700 hours
Venue:	Quarterdeck Room, RMS Maritime Division, James Craig Rd, Rozelle
Chair:	Neil Patchett (NP), Stakeholder and Community Engagement Manager, Maritime Management Centre
Minute taker:	David Chieza (DC), Assistant Policy Officer, Maritime Management Centre

Attendees:	
Geoff Duvall (GD)	Australian Power Boat Association
Jeff Richards (JR)	Boat Owners' Association of NSW Inc.
David Lyall (DL)	Marine Rescue NSW
Chris Gillett (CG)	Marine Rescue NSW
Murray Clarke (MC)	NSW Rowing Association
Phil Newman (PN)	PaddleNSW
Peter Hunter (PH)	Personal watercraft representative
Malcolm Poole (MP)	Recreational Fishing Alliance of New South Wales
David Hunter (DH)	Roads and Maritime Services
Greg Blackburne (GB)	Scuba Clubs' Association of NSW
Phil Dulhunty (PD)	Seaplane Pilots' Association
Andrew Cribb (AC)	Yachting NSW
Apologies:	
Alan Barrett (AB)	Boating Industry Association
Tony Andrews (TA)	Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries)
Michael Drake (MD)	Maritime Management Centre
Andrew Mathers (AM)	Paddle NSW
Andy Kent (AK)	Surf Life Saving NSW
Date of next meeting	TBA

1 Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 NP welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted the apologies.
- 1.2 New members Andrew Cribb replacing Malcolm Levy (Yachting NSW) and Chris Gillett replacing Michael Stringer (Marine Rescue NSW) were welcomed to RVAG.
- 1.3 NP acknowledged and payed tribute to the valuable and long standing contribution of Michael Stringer, who had recently stepped down from RVAG, had made to the group. Members supported the recognition.

- 1.4 DL said that experienced former RVAG members should be afforded the courtesy of continuing to receive RVAG papers and be occasionally consulted on matters where they can provide expertise where appropriate.
- 1.5 DH advised that this could be an issue for the chair to consider taking into account the current Terms of Reference.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due
1. Consider providing past members with RVAG papers data.	Chair	ASAP

2 Review of actions from previous meeting

- 2.1 On review of the previous meeting minutes, it was resolved that action items 1 and 6 be carried forward into this meeting's minutes.
- 2.2 Members were advised a new contact from BOM (Andrew Treloar) 02 9296 1528) has replaced Julie Evans for all matters relating to weather technologies and services. Andrew has also been invited and accepted to present on the new technologies at the next RVAG in April.
- 2.3 PH told members that if they had any queries on the new laws regarding boat trailer width they could contact him for advice as he was part of the project group working on this issue within the federal government.
- 2.4 It was moved by NP and seconded by PD, that the minutes of the meeting of 14 October 2014 were a true record.

3 Reports

3.1 Boating Incident Report:

- The boating incident reports for October 2014 to January 2015 were received and NP said there had been 13 fatalities for 2014-15 to date, five more than the total for 2013-14 which was the best result in 20yrs.
- DH said fatalities tell a different story when considered on their own, however, he noted that when you include the serious injuries the broader picture is more positive when compared to last financial year.
- DH mentioned that it's worth noting that whilst serious injuries are occurring the number of fatalities that would have resulted from the serious injuries is down slightly. DH further stated there needs to be a focus on the cause of incidents noting that the current lifejacket campaign is directed more to the consequences arising from incidents.
- DH said RMS direct their efforts and campaigns to high-risk activities e.g blue water, cold water, with Boating Education Officers focussing attention on likelihood activities.
- GD stated that perhaps the figures are reflecting that more incidents are being reported and recorded.
- DL pointed out that whilst more incidents are being reported and RVAG has access the incident summary reports, more should be done to show the outcomes particularly in incidents leading to prosecution.
- DH advised that whilst RVAG is presented with the summary reports there is a large amount of work involved behind the scenes with all most all incidents being investigated by a dedicated branch from NSW Maritime.
- MP remarked that while it's encouraging to note lifejackets are being worn more often, as evident in the reports, however people continue to drown. He also said there are still too many 'unknown' factors recorded in the reports.
- NP acknowledged the need to capture lifejacket wear details across all incidents where appropriate, and said it's important to note the lifejacket campaign continues.

- JR questioned whether the wearing of lifejackets was encouraging risky behaviour and if there was any evidence to suggest boaters were simply wearing lifejackets and not taking any other safe boating measures.
- NP said there was merit to continually monitor the contributing factors involved in the incidents data.

3.2 Licence/registration statistics report:

- DC presented the licence and registrations data and advised that he's continuing to liaise with RMS to present data showing longer-term trends across a range of categories and criteria.
- PH said licence data over a 10year period would be much more useful. He also noted that there was some discrepancy when looking at the PWC registrations data between the months of November and December 2014 and something could've gone wrong in the data entry.
- NP said an expert on data and statistics will be presenting at Marine15 on national and international statistics with a focus on strategies to improve data outcomes. For example, the US Coast Guard has shifted to relating incidents against 'user hours' instead of per 100,000 registrations which has been common practise in NSW.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due
2. Work with RMS to provide new accurate long term trend data reports on licensing and registration. Also to include figures on take up of the different licence renewal and validity length.	DC	Ongoing

3.3 Expired flares:

- DH informed the group on the current measures in place for collecting expired flares. He said currently RMS is looking at other options and has identified the solutions, however there is an ongoing process to set up the instruments to make all this happen.
- AC requested info on the flare disposal arrangements to distribute to his network.
- DH said he would send the group a link to the Afloat article outlining the existing flare collection process.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due
3. DH to circulate a link to Afloat magazine article on flare disposal to RVAG members for further distribution to their respective networks.	DH	ASAP

4 Lifejacket wear initiative - update

- 4.1 NP briefed the group on the many projects and programs underway through the lifejacket wear initiative. Highlights being the Old4New lifejacket upgrade, advertising campaign and the lifejacket retail project.

Old4New lifejacket upgrade

- 4.2 NP said the Old4New program had grown in popularity resulting in a 300% increase in public engagement, at some sites, when compared with last season.
- 4.3 PH asked how the Old4New program was advertised and NP responded that there was light advertising in regional press, a program published online, support from some strategic media partners and weekly updates through social media posts.

- 4.4 MP requested that more details be published about the Old4New locations on social media and minimize the redirect of customers to the website schedule. DC noted that as the schedule was subject to change at short notice it was important to keep one source of truth being the website for updates which customers are now accustomed to.
- 4.5 AC passed on his organisation's gratitude and appreciation for the successful Old4New program visit. He remarked the campaign had been particularly successful during partnerships with Yachting NSW events over the summer.

Lifejacket advertising campaign

- 4.6 NP told the group that the lifejacket advertising campaign was continuing until Easter and would undergo a strategic review by Transport for NSW to determine tactics for 2015/16.

Lifejacket retail project

- 4.7 NP explained the lifejacket retail project which aims to promote modern style lifejackets via direct engagement and partnerships with BIA retailers. He mentioned it was launched last year (2014) across 10 stores (six in Sydney) and looking to increase to more 40 stores statewide.
- 4.8 MP asked to know how much money approximately had been spent so far on the Lifejacket Wear Initiative and what the retail project was about. NP said he would check and provide an estimate figure and more info.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due
4. Investigate and provide an estimate on funds spent so far on the Lifejacket Wear Initiative and provide a summary of the retail project.	NP	April 2015

- 4.9 MP said DPI indicated to him they would be happy to share space in their publications to feature the Old4New and other similar projects.

A new website and Boatwise App

- 4.10 NP told members that a new Maritime Management Centre website would be launched soon and it will contain information on campaigns, projects and initiatives across the boating safety and waterways access streams.
- 4.11 DC advised that the Boatwise App was launched at the end of December 2015. He said the app which provides users with comprehensive coverage of marine and weather information for NSW, is currently available for iPhone with a view to provide more features and include other platforms in future updates as the app matures. Boatwise is available for download through the iTunes online store.

5 Boat driver licence review – update

- 5.1 JR submitted a paper for discussion and said that he felt there was inadequate time given to RVAG to provide sufficient feedback to the review.
- 5.2 JR said it's not clear to him what the benefits are in the alignment of licences.
- 5.3 PH commented that the amount of feedback received so far appears to suggest there was insufficient consultation. He also felt that consideration should be given to further reduce PWC fees lower than is being proposed in the review.
- 5.4 DL asked what if it was possible for the group to have another opportunity to comment.
- 5.5 AC mentioned Yachting NSW had appreciated the engagement and opportunity to comment.
- 5.6 NP advised RVAG that there would certainly be another opportunity to provide feedback on the review, he also said he'd give members an outline of the steps that lay ahead.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due
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5. Provide a timeline for the 'Boat driver license review' process between now and September 2015.	NP	April 2015
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6 Regional boating plans (RBP) - update

- 6.1 NP advised that the RBP had been completed and that announcements would follow shortly. He mentioned the project had involved an extensive program of consultation statewide.
- 6.2 DH said that the RBP announcements would contain more detail on specific projects in the regions as well as the funding allocation.

7 General Business

- 7.1 PN said he noticed an error in the online version of the current boating handbook.
- 7.2 GD asked if members could get a copy of the latest boating handbook.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due
6. Fix error on the online boating handbook and distribute the link to members.	NP	ASAP

Marine15 (3-5 May, Gold Coast)

- 7.3 NP said registrations for Marine15 were already tracking well above the previous Marine13 and he encouraged members to try and attend as he was arranging for a group discount to RVAG if there is interest.

EPIRB - disposal and registration (AMSA)

- 7.4 NP tabled a media release and draft communications plan from AMSA regarding the phasing out of EPIRB registrations. He asked if members could provide feedback on the communications plan back to him.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due
7. Provide feedback to NP on the AMSA Communications Plan tabled at RVAG. E-mail neil.patchett@transport.nsw.gov.au	RVAG	ASAP

Fish traps and floats (JR)

- 7.5 JR tabled a paper on the issue of fish traps and asked members if they could add to the list of incidents included on his paper. He said DPI had shown little interest in addressing this issue of boats being caught in traps.
- 7.6 MP said the issue is complex and it's about education, more consultation within the group would be a better way to find a workable outcome for all.
- 7.7 DL said this issue has now been raised at ministerial levels by external parties seeking to get a speedy resolution.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due
8. Continue discussion within a working group of interested members, with a view to reaching agreement and proposing ideas to address the issue of fish floats and traps and navigation safety.	DL, JR, MP, MD	Ongoing

- 7.8 NP asked members to note for information only additional papers provided out of session by Alan Barrett (Marine pilot for recreational vessels over 30m) and Michael Stringer (Racing vessels on Sydney Harbour).
- 7.9 DL gave an update to members on the work currently being done by a 'Boat Ramp Guidelines' working group of RVAG members. He said the group met with RMS and would be providing more input shortly.
- 7.10 PH advised members that the Catalina Flying Boat Memorial is nearing completion and could be used to assist in volunteer rescue missions.
- 7.11 DH mentioned that there was an increase in sea plane activity on the Moruya River and asked if members had received any noise complaints.
- 7.12 GB said he is aware of a letter circulating from the member for Vaucluse regarding boat trailer parking restrictions. He asked if there was an update on this issue. NP responded that he'd investigate and provide feedback to RVAG.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due
9. Provide feedback to RVAG on current status of 'boat trailer parking' issue.	NP	ASAP

- 7.13 PH commented that perhaps another PWC stakeholder event was due and noted that whilst the PWC educational campaign has been good, he said the Revesby Traffic Management Plan was not being handed out to PWC drivers by the BSO and BEO which is a concern.
- 7.14 NP said he'll seek interest from stakeholders including Marine Area Command and Cultural Partners on their level of interest in participating and coordinating a PWC stakeholder event.
- 7.15 MP suggested there should be a 12 month calendar for RVAG meetings and that this should be synchronized with the MAC meeting. NP agreed and said the MMC can look into this and provide a calendar.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due
10. Provide a 12 month calendar of proposed RVAG meeting dates.	Chair	ASAP

- 7.16 The meeting closed at 19:30hrs.

Summary of Actions

#	Actions	Person	Due
1.	Consider providing past members with RVAG papers data.	DC	ASAP
2.	Work with RMS to provide new accurate long term trend data reports on licensing and registration. Also to include figures on take up of the different licence renewal and validity length.	DC	Ongoing
3.	DH to circulate a link to Afloat magazine article on flare disposal to RVAG.	DH	ASAP
4.	Investigate and provide an estimate on funds spent so far on the Lifejacket Wear Initiative and provide a summary of the retail project.	NP	ASAP

5.	Provide a timeline for the 'Boat driver license review' process between now and September 2015.	NP	April 2015
6.	Fix error on the online boating handbook and distribute the link to members.	NP	Nov 2014
7.	Provide feedback to NP on the AMSA Communications Plan tabled at RVAG. E-mail NP	RVAG	ASAP
8.	Continue discussion within a working group of interested members, with a view to reaching agreement and proposing ideas to address the issue of fish floats and traps and navigation safety.	DL, JR, MP, MD	Ongoing
9.	Provide feedback to RVAG on current status of 'boat trailer parking' issue.	NP	ASAP
10.	Provide a 12 month calendar of proposed RVAG meeting dates.	NP	ASAP