

Recreational Vessels Advisory Group

Date:	Tuesday 5 September 2017, 1700 hours
Venue:	Meeting Room 1A & 1B, NSW Maritime, 33 James Craig Rd, Rozelle
Chair:	Lucas Taylor (LT), Centre for Maritime Safety, Transport for NSW
Admin:	David Chieza (DC), Centre for Maritime Safety, Transport for NSW

Attendees:	
Adam Smith (AS)	Australian Boating College (observer)
Declan Brennan (DB)	Australian Sailing (formerly Yachting NSW)
Michael Jarvin (MJ) – By phone	Boating Industry Association
Shane Wilson (SW)	Boating Industry Association
Glenn Evans (GE)	Marine Rescue NSW
Murray Clarke (MC)	NSW Rowing Association
Tony Hystek (TH)	Paddle NSW
Peter Hunter (PH)	Personal watercraft representative
Tony Johanssen (TJ)	Roads and Maritime Services
Malcolm Poole (MP)	Recreational Fishing Alliance of New South Wales
Greg Blackburne (GB)	Scuba Clubs' Association of NSW
Phil Dulhunty (PD)	Seaplane Pilots' Association
Matt du Plessis (MdP)	Surf Life Saving NSW
Apologies:	
Geoff Duvall (GD)	Australian Power Boat Association
Chris de Jong (CdJ)	Boat Owners' Association of NSW Inc.
Tony Andrews (TA)	Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries)
Sen Sgt Alexander Barrell (AB)	Marine Area Command (NSW Police Force)
David Hunter (DH)	Roads and Maritime Services
David Lyall (DL)	
Date of next meeting:	Tuesday 14 November 2017

1 Welcome and apologies

- 1.1 LT welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted apologies from Geoff Duvall, Chris de Jong, David Lyall, Alex Barrell and David Hunter. LT also welcomed new representatives including Matt du Plessis from Surf Life Saving NSW who was replacing Andy Kent and Adam Smith from the Australian Boating College invited as an observer.

2 Review of actions from previous meeting

Action 1: Closed. Members were encouraged to send any additional 'flare collection' information to DH (RMS).

Action 2: Addressed in Agenda item 9.

Action 3: Closed. LT stated he had received four responses on the ToR for RVAG.

Action 4: Ongoing.

Action 5: Addressed in Agenda item 7.

Action 6: Addressed in Agenda item 7.

It was moved by GB and seconded by MP that the minutes were a true and accurate record.

3 Reports

3.1 Maritime Incident Report:

- LT noted that there were no fatalities recorded and a couple of serious injuries, which was a promising development. LT took the papers as read and asked if there were any questions.

3.2 Licence/registration statistics report:

- LT said there was no unusual data in the licence and registration numbers and advised members to note the report.

3.3 Members Reports:

- MP advised that he met with DH (RMS) regarding boating infrastructure and Council responsibilities. Specifically how Council should manage and maintain boating ramps and infrastructure. MP said boat ramp design is still an issue with some failing points clearly evident.
- MP said next steps following that meeting would be to look at expanding terms of reference for Councils to include other land assets and also consider the issue of commercial barges tying up at ramps and blocking access for long periods of time.
- DB mentioned that it would be interesting to see if RMS kept a record of charter boats tying up and restricting access around Sydney Harbour ramps and wharfs, particularly around the sunset cruise times. MP said there's currently no tangible agreement between RMS and Councils on enforcing the issue of commercial vessels blocking access. MJ stated if this is a major issue we should consider simple guidelines for inclusion with Boating Now grants applications.
- MP stated that it's not about regulating the activity at the ramps but perhaps working out the more appropriate times for commercial vessels to use the ramps without disadvantaging recreational boating. TJ said we should encourage Councils to adopt the same approach they use when restricting 'heavy vehicles' from certain roads under their control and apply that model to commercial vessel operators at ramps.
- MJ suggested putting forward some dot points to be considered in the 'guidelines' document for Boating Now grants funding.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
1. MJ and MP to draft suggestions and forward to LT and DH for guidelines to Councils for inclusion in the Boating Now grants application process.	MJ, MP	30 Sep 2017

- MP said dredging and maintaining safe navigation is still an issue on the Central Coast.
- LT reminded members to send through feedback on these issues out of session as well so they can be attended to in a timely manner and referred to again during RVAG sitting.
- MC stated that it's a still a relatively quiet period for rowing although schools are starting to increase activity.
- TH enquired if there was an overall plan about distribution of multipurpose access facilities across the broader Sydney waterway system and LT responded that in 2015 there was wide ranging consultation with the community and Councils to get feedback on areas of highest use and need. LT mentioned it might be worthwhile reviewing that feedback and MJ agreed noting that there is a noticeable increase in paddlers sport on the harbour. LT suggested in the past there was an attempt to keep active and passive craft separate for safety reasons.
- TH said the ramp at Silverwater Bridge is an example of a new facility built without consideration for paddle craft access. LT said there is a process underway to try and get more evidence of paddler numbers using the waterways to further support the need for the additional infrastructure. MJ remarked that at Marine17 there was a strong paddle safe presentation from a US speaker and SW said he'd forward a copy of that presentation to RVAG out of session.
- TJ advised that he will provide the guidelines developed by RMS for the development of paddle craft access points for members to review and provide any feedback.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
2. TJ to forward a list of paddle craft access points developed by RMS for members' feedback.	TJ	ASAP

- MC mentioned that more boating is moving west of the Gladesville bridge also an area frequently used by paddlers and rowers and it's creating more congestion and ferry wash issues. LT commented there is a reasonable prospect that the future of ferries may be very different on the harbour with regards to wash issues.
- DB said sailing was relatively quiet, and feedback on waiving the fees for aquatic licences was generally fantastic but there were some issues around clubs still needing to approach Sydney Ports for other approvals. DB stated there's another issue of sailing clubs not getting access to apply for private mooring licences because they come under the commercial vessel classification. MJ said perhaps we can request for Andrew Mogg (TfNSW) to provide an update on the Mooring Review process and also circulate the last report that went out for consultation.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
3. DB to meet with DH (RMS) and discuss opportunities to further streamline with aquatic license process.	DH	ASAP

- SW advised that the BIA had been experiencing a very busy period with key events successfully produced including, Marine17, Sydney International Boat Show (SIBS) which saw the launch of the BIA's Advanced Skipper product and the Brisbane Boat

Show which recorded a 40% increase in attendance on the Saturday contributing to an overall 28% increase in attendance across the duration of the show.

- SW stated the BIA had collected some comprehensive statistics from the attendees at these events covering a variety of sections including insights such as how people interacted with each show and are now busy carrying out feedback surveys from exhibitors. LT mentioned that 11% of all attendees at SIBS visited the Safety Zone and the event debrief was overwhelming positive
- MJ added that he would like RVAG to have a bit more visibility of the RBAG groups and perhaps be extended an invitation to attend one of those. He mentioned the Sydney RBAG has been getting very good feedback.

3.4 Update on the Maritime Advisory Council:

- LT said the newly constituted Maritime Advisory Council had their first meeting and it went well. LT said the MAC had gone through a refresh and that RVAG will go through a similar refresh. LT said there will be a stronger link with RBAG to RVAG and then onto MAC in a new advisory hierarchy structure.
- MC said since the user groups stopped meeting he's lost touch with what's going on as whole in the boating community. LT said RVAG members are more than welcome to attend the RBAGs and encouraged members to attend the Sydney Harbour RBAG this week.

4 Review of RVAG Membership and Terms of Reference

- 4.1 LT said the refresh will see letters will be sent out to organisations asking for a representative to be nominated to attend RVAG and represent the organisation.

5 Maritime Safety update

Evidence-based priority safety issues for 2017-21

- 5.1 LT said the Maritime Safety Plan is in its final stages of development and the recent boating survey was the final piece of work left to complete. LT added he will seek to present more detail about the draft plan at a special out of session RVAG meeting possibly after work hours.
- 5.2 LT also mentioned that a PWC survey has been published to gain views about boating on the Georges River, there is another similar survey to residence and results should be out by end October.

Action Item	Person Responsible	Due
4. LT to propose a special RVAG meeting dedicated to presenting details of the Draft Maritime Safety Plan.	LT	TBA

6 Events update

- 6.1 LT provided members with the following summary and statistics on recent major events:

Marine17

- 450 attendees for the event which was slightly up on the previous.
- NSW maritime safety priorities themes including lifejackets, paddle safe, weather and data featured strongly throughout.
- Dedicated forums were held on Paddle Safe, Indigenous safety and boating safety (including lifejackets).

Sydney International Boat Show (SIBS)

- Debrief of boating safety partners provided overall positive feedback.

- SIBS saw 63,045 visitors this year a return to attendance figures last achieved at the 2012 event. In 2016, 46,000 people attended. The BIA attributed this to improving economic sentiment in addition to the curiosity factor of the new ICC.
- Walk-through traffic at the Boating Safety Zone was 11% of the show's total attendance.
- The Boating Safety Zone provided an opportunity to put safety and the customers first in a collaborative approach promoting boating safety on our waterways.

Maritime Medal

- LT congratulated Maritime Medallists for 2017 Chris Mitchell (safety medal) and Mike Jarvin (community medal), a highlights video can be viewed by [clicking here](#).
- It was the first time the medal award was held as part of the SIBS and all feedback on this change has been positive.

Boating Safety Day

- LT advised that Sunday 15 October will be Boating Safety Day run in collaboration with Gone Fishing Day and also links in with Discover Boating Week coordinated by the BIA.
- LT said CMS is coordinating with jurisdictions in Australia and New Zealand who are adopting Boating Safety Day as well in a show of collaboration in safety.

7 Lifejacket Wear Initiative – TfNSW update

7.1 LT provided an overview of the Lifejacket Wear Initiative statistics so far stating that;

- **8 out of 10** people in the target audience understand the importance of wearing a lifejacket;
- **67%** of boaters said they intend to wear a lifejacket when they are out on the water (2016-17, April & November IPSOS);
- Lifejacket wear rate (2016-17) latest statistics show that **45.4%** of observed boaters wore a lifejacket.

Old4New mobile lifejacket program

- Old4New has exceeded expectations as a direct engagement strategy. As of 8 May 2017, the program had:
 - completed 525 site visits
 - engaged 60,000+ people
 - 20,889 lifejackets upgrades
 - travelled some 103659km
- The program has drawn attention from Canada and France, and has been adopted in New Zealand and in Western Australia. The Boating Industry extended the idea into the Adelaide and Brisbane boat shows; and Tasmania is looking at adapting the program.
- In NSW the program will resume again in the last weekend of September 2017.

- SW said he's received feedback from regional dealers enquiring whether they can have a 'voucher system' similar to an event held at Barclay Marine in Forster a season ago.
- DB asked if there was messaging going out about disposal of damaged cylinders and MP said yes that information was a key focus of the program in the overall care and service focus. AS said we get big numbers of new comers to boating through the licensing courses and perhaps there could be an opportunity to provide for discount vouchers for lifejackets to these new boaters.

8 Operational update

- 8.1 TJ advised that as DH was not in attendance an operational update would be provided at the next meeting however members were encouraged to e-mail any pressing questions to DH for an out of session response if required.

9 Boating Now - update

- 9.1 TJ said that RMS is currently in the middle of phase one of the Boating Now Program with 192 projects currently in progress and of these 75 are now complete, with others in various phases of construction. TJ added that it's likely approximately 75% of the projects will complete by December 2017. 10 projects have been cancelled mainly at the request of the local government.
- 9.2 TJ stated the second phase of projects is due to commence in January 2018 and complete by December 2019. Applications for funding closed in August and are currently being evaluated. There were approximately 120 applications for the available \$17 million in funding.

10 General Business

- 10.1 MJ said he received a call from a person within the boat business community at Nambucca Heads seeking information on how boaters funds are being used in a general sense, asking why some of the funds go towards paying for toilets and fish cleaning facilities and similar infrastructure. MP said he'd spoken to the same person as well and TJ also confirmed he'd spoken to him and provided him with information and a response which seemed to address his concerns.

- 11 The meeting concluded at 7:00pm.

Summary of Actions

#	Action Items	Person	Due
1.	MJ and MP to draft suggestions and forward to LT and DH for guidelines to Councils for inclusion in the Boating Now grants application process.	MJ, MP	30 Sept 17
2.	TJ to forward a list of paddle craft access points developed by RMS for members' feedback.	TJ	ASAP
3.	DB to meet with DH (RMS) and discuss opportunities to further streamline with aquatic license process.	DH	ASAP
4.	LT to propose a special RVAG meeting dedicated to presenting details of the Draft Maritime Safety Plan.	LT	TBA
5.	Action 4 from previous minutes: Circulate information to RVAG on the status of the 'observational study'.	LT	ASAP