

# MINUTES

<b>Meeting title</b>	<b>RVAG Meeting No. 83</b>		
<b>Date and time</b>	Tuesday 12 May 2020 – 5:00pm - 7:00pm		
<b>Venue</b>	Microsoft Teams		
<b>Chairperson</b>	David Hunter (DH) TfNSW (Maritime)		
<b>Attendees</b>	Chris De Jong Geoff Duval Glenn Evans Greg Blackburne Malcolm Poole Mike Jarvin Shane Wilson Neil Patchett Ann Waddington Hendrik Clasié Dush Sharma Adam Milgate Brianna Coyte Terry Barber Chris Doolin Jon Horbury Tony Hystek Andrew Stirzaker Rose Ussia	CDJ GD GE GB MP MJ SW NP AW HC DS AM BC TB CD JH TH AS RU	Boat Owner Assoc. Aust. Power Boat Assoc. Marine Rescue NSW Scuba Clubs Assoc. of NSW RFA NSW Advanced Marina Management BIA BIA TfNSW (Maritime) TfNSW (Maritime) TfNSW (CMS) TfNSW (Maritime) SLS NSW SLS NSW TfNSW (Maritime) Ski Racing NSW Paddle NSW Commercial Vessel Assoc. TfNSW (Maritime) Secretariat
<b>Apologies</b>	Alex Barrell Evonne McCabe Peter Harvey Adam Smith Phil Dulhunty Tasha Prabhaka Marie Lodge Carl Webster Murray Clarke Cliff Ellmers	AB EM PH AS PD TP ML CW MC CE	TfNSW (Maritime) TfNSW (Maritime) TfNSW (CMS) ABC Boating Seaplane Pilots Association TfNSW TfNSW Australian Sailing NSW Rowing Assoc. AJSBA

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1.	<b>Welcome and Apologies and membership changes</b>	Chair
	Welcomed members and noted apologies. Introduced guest speaker Andrew Stirzaker Clarified the Microsoft procedures and Agenda items.	
2.	<b>Confirmation of minutes from previous meeting</b> <i>RVAG accepted and approved Minutes from previous meeting (11 February 2020)</i> DH: Minutes from 20 August 2109 will be available on website soon. 11 February are not uploaded on our website until Members agree and confirm accuracy. Draft Minutes to be distributed to members three weeks after meeting for review, comments and amendments. Finalise draft minutes within a four week timeframe.	ALL DH
3.	<b>Actions arising from previous meeting (20 August 2019)</b> <b>New Action Items from meeting (11 February 2020)</b> DH: Summarised the below topics from last meeting 11/2/20; <b>Fatalities, Bushfires and Marine Pollution Act Amendments</b> Awareness, great feedback/comments, and CMS/ Maritime working together.	DH/ALL DH
4.	<b>CEO Commercial Vessel Association (CVA)</b> <a href="mailto:admin@commercialvessels.org.au">admin@commercialvessels.org.au</a> <b>Andrew Stirzaker</b> new CEO and (contact person) introduced himself to the members, brief background about his position within CVA and advised the forum that the Commercial Vessel Association is more active, back constituted and a vigorous force. Domestic commercial vessels and the passenger vessel space is who Commercial Vessel Association represents, along with colleagues and the BIA. Andrew can be contact directly, or attend another meeting if members think it's relevant to address in the meeting.	AS
5	<b>Members Report:</b>  <b>ATPs – Adam Smith - Apology</b>  <b>BOA- Chris De Jong:</b> COVID-19, Issue for BOA – No feedback from Minister, not many people out on their boat. BOA Members are confused on restrictions and want some clarification. Waiting on Maritime feedback.  <b>APBA - Geoff Duvall:</b> All powerboat activities across NSW and Australia have ceased since Govt. Directives. We will continue to meet Govt. Directives. Keeping away from the water until its safe and keeping in line with Govt. policies. Committees continue to plan for next season activities and taking place with various committees via video/ teleconferences  <b>MR NSW - Glenn Evans:</b> Restrictions have had fair impact on Marine Rescue NSW. Call out volunteers have been based at home, has created slight delays responding to incidents. MRNSW have been working closely with water police and Maritime. Recent capsizes at Botany Bay and off Curl Curl, MR Middle Harbour responded to Curl Curl incident. Boat at Curl Curl not recovered, boat at Botany Bay recovered. Reducing number of peoples aboard their vessels. Resumed midweek radio coverage out at Cronulla.	AS CDJ GD GE

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<p>Looking forward to some further changes to have MR NSW on standby. ANZAC Day had 800 vessels logged on, usually see 13% of vessel logons across NSW. Lot of vessels out on the water. MR NSW Training have moved to online training platform. Meetings are all online.</p> <p><b>Scuba Clubs NSW – Greg Blackburne:</b> Some clubs have cancelled all activities, both on and off the water for the year. Misperception early on in the isolation phase, regarding restrictions, fishing, scuba diving. Chatting to people how to justify going shore diving. Two boats went out to sea with two people going diving pass Wattamolla. Diving has been fairly quiet.</p> <p><b>SRF – Malcom Poole:</b> Maritime providing good content on social media, useful information and asked to continue with updates.</p> <p>Lifejackets continue to pose a major problem, seeing old lifejackets out on boats and distributed and sold on social media.</p> <p>Discussion with Neil Patchett on how to go forward with Lifejackets regarding older standards 2699 and 1499 how do we eliminate these old lifejackets.</p> <p>Promote current lifejackets and a way forward across Australia to remove all old /out of date lifejackets. Heavy education regarding lifejackets to all vessel and PWC owners. Fishing clubs on the Coasts have cancelled their fishing events due to COVID-19.</p> <p><b>DH:</b> Maritime have reviewed the lifejackets legislations, new list of accepted lifejacket standards on TfNSW website, Maritime aware of old lifejackets being used, they are still permitted but in the process of phasing them out.</p> <p><b>SLS NSW – Brianna Coyte/ Terry Barber:</b> SLS NSW responded to seven boating incidents. Several broken down jet skis and a capsized vessel down the Coast and a fishing vessel aground. <b>TB:</b> to contact State Operations Centre Managers to see if SLS NSW can release figures from current season and will email to DH and forward to RVAG members. <b>BC:</b> Stats are shared with relevant agencies.</p> <p><b>BIA – Shane Wilson/ Neil Patchett:</b> <b>SW:</b> BIA cancelled all the boat shows for 2020 due to COVID-19, including the Sydney International Boat Show. Planning in place with some restrictions to present some mini boat shows towards the end of the year.</p> <p>Members have seen some spikes in business particular the boat repair shops. Lot of people are using their boats during COVID-19, great for BIA industry. Job keeper helped a lot of BIA members.</p> <p><b>NP:</b> BIA working firm since COVID-19 was announced 12 March. Main effort is to support businesses and jobs which support the boating public and members of RVAG. Key part is to keep Marinas and Boat yards operational. Recreational boating is now permitted in most states and Territories across the country. Great achievement. From an industry point of view, BIA are very mindful and are advocating for boating to be returned as an activity under control measures and promoting it to be safe and responsible.</p>	<p>GB</p> <p>MP</p> <p>TB</p> <p>SW</p> <p>NP</p>

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	<p><b>Ski Racing NSW – Jon Horbury:</b> All Ski events have been cancelled for the remainder of the season which runs from the financial year. Off season looking to review from Ski Racing Australia and local NSW. Redrawing up Calendars for events and looking at strategies from a safety and membership perspective. Waiting for gates to open, Calendar to be approved and open up Ski racing events.</p> <p><b>Sailing NSW – Carl Webster – Apology</b></p> <p><b>NSW Rowing – Murray Clarke – Apology ( MC emailed members report)</b> All regattas have been cancelled and clubs have either closed or severely restricted activities. This is an extraordinary period for NSW Rowing.</p> <p><b>Advanced Marina Management – Mike Jarvin</b> COVID-19 recovery not to be hindered. High number of fatalities and very important to get people out in the water in a safely manner using their vessels.</p> <p><b>AJSBA – Cliff Ellmers – Apology</b></p> <p><b>Paddle NSW – Tony Hystek – lost connection</b> Post meeting apologies were extended by Tony</p>	<p>JH</p> <p>MC</p> <p>MJ</p>
6.	<p><b>Maritime Reports:</b></p> <p><b>Operations- Chris Doolin</b> Very complicated boating season this year – with the end culminating in COVID-19 restrictions – but a very heavy on-water customer base. Operational Priorities were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Maintain presence on-water for our customers</li> <li>o Maintain Regulatory posture – including penalty for safety related offences (lifejacket wear, speed, high risk matters)</li> <li>o Maintain health and mental wellbeing in a heightened stress environment and support our front-line operators</li> </ul> <p>Bushfire response. Saw a significant impact and response effort to support Government bushfire response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Deployed staff from across the State to support the Bushfire response efforts in the North, Central and South coasts. This included on the ground and in emergency operations centres.</li> <li>o Led straight into COVID-19 pandemic</li> </ul> <p>Fatality Data – 22 for same time last year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Operations provided increased presence over Easter weekend and ANZAC Day in response</li> </ul> <p>Bar crossing education campaign: <a href="https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/maritime/usingwaterways/navigationandcommunication/coastal-bar-safety-a-guide-to-crossing-coastal-bars.pdf">https://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/documents/maritime/usingwaterways/navigationandcommunication/coastal-bar-safety-a-guide-to-crossing-coastal-bars.pdf</a></p> <p>Annual Signage audit commenced. Mooring Audit – Ongoing. To be completed by end of August 20. Priorities Looking forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Completion of signage and mooring audit</li> <li>o Post boating season lessons learned capture – target priorities for our next boating season (20/21)</li> <li>o Recruitment – few new joiners stating across the State</li> <li>o Projecting to what the next Boating season may look like – in a similar COVID-19 world</li> </ul>	<p>CD</p>

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<p><b>Education Service and Delivery/Products – Ann Waddington</b></p> <p><b>Covid 19 update:</b> Due to lack of clarity around boating restrictions due to COVID 19, there were increased customer enquiries in the first three weeks or so. These eased off after PHO clarification for boating was achieved.</p> <p>All updates in relation to boating restrictions re: Covid-19 is placed on the website and social media as soon as we are aware and constantly updated with current information to assist customers.</p> <p>We are dealing with customers as we are contacted by them and looking at their individual circumstance to determine what support/relief we can offer.</p> <p><b>Projects Update:</b> Re-write of the Boating Handbook. Content Ark has been engaged to assist in the re-design, formatting and useability.</p> <p>Computerised knowledge test – to replace paper based, multiple choice test. Will allow for ease of updates to question bank and for data analytics on areas of common failure to inform education</p> <p>Moorings on line will replace the need to attend a SNSW centre to apply for a mooring or priority wait list. Wait list data will be real time in this solution. Work is progressing on a broader solution for flare disposal rather than a 3 month only programme</p> <p><b>Communications – Adam Milgate:</b> Currently working with 15 Property Projects and managing their consultations and all the Stakeholders communications, mostly around Sydney and also Eden/ Carrington.</p> <p>Working on 10 general Campaigns, approved training providers support, bar crossing campaign. Developed an upgraded version of the Boat driving game for the Boat show. Will not go ahead until the next Boat Show.</p> <p>Developing information for the Boating companion Apps, looking to refine the content and process. Project engagement strategy for COVID-19 – approved b A/ED.</p> <p><b>Operational Policy Performances – David Hunter:</b> Mooring Reform Program is ongoing, number of components of the program close to completion.</p> <p>E.g. NSW Mooring Standards and Guidelines have been developed, both at final draft stages and being socialised with key mooring contractors, before workshopped with larger groups of mooring contractors.</p> <p>Four environmentally friendly moorings in Shoal Bay now been under trial for six months. TfNSW has partnered with scientists who have planted seagrasses around the moorings. No damage to the seagrasses has been reported so far in the trial.</p>	<p>AW</p> <p>AM</p> <p>DH</p>

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	<p>COVID boating restrictions. Alex Barrell (Acting Executive Director Maritime) working with NSW Health to align boating restriction changes with general relaxations. Maritime will provide updated information to all boating stakeholders as early as possible. Please refer to the Maritime website - it's updated regularly.</p>	
7.	<p><b>CMS Reports – Dush Sharma</b> Echo on some of the comments on COVID-19, CMS have been working with Maritime and taking on-board a lot of stakeholder concerns and present them to Government.</p> <p>Boating trauma on our waterways, sitting at 22 fatalities this financial year which is an increase of 12 from same time last financial year. Education Campaigns will continue particularly around lifejackets and PWCs. Data received boater age factor and weather main contributions to the high number of fatalities.</p> <p>Boating Now Program, Round 3 applications closed early this year. Thank you to all who submitted an application. An announcement of the successful projects will be announced in the coming months.</p> <p>Maritime Advisory Council, peak Stakeholder body, current committee is due to conclude its term in August.</p> <p>Applications are currently open for new members, closing in mid-June. Detailed information on how to apply is on the CMS website, we strongly encourage people from across the industry to apply and help advise our Ministers when it comes to waterways management. EOI applications are open for the Maritime Advisory Council until 14 June: <a href="https://www.maritimemanagement.transport.nsw.gov.au/about/news/eoi-mac.html">https://www.maritimemanagement.transport.nsw.gov.au/about/news/eoi-mac.html</a></p>	DS
8.	<p><b>Other Business</b> <b>NP: Murray Darling Basement Authorities on Erosion Management Issue/ update and concerns around erosions.</b> <b>DH:</b> 49 kilometre section of the Murray between Corowa and Bundalong with reported erosion issues. High-wash boating has been identified as a key contributing cause of the erosion.</p> <p>During the stakeholder consultation period which occurred in 2017/2018. Heard a number of key messages from Stakeholders and the community. Including; further evidence was needed that the erosion is caused by high-wash boating.</p> <p>An analysis of the potential impact that boating restrictions would have on the regional economy was also needed. The gathering of further evidence and the economic analysis are nearing completion.</p>	DH
9.	<p><b>Next Meeting: 11 August and 10 November 2020</b></p> <p>Meeting Closed at 7:00pm</p>	

## Actions arising from previous meeting (20 August 2019)

3.1	Update on RVAG Action Items from 20 August 2019 <b>Action Item 1- 20 Aug 2019</b> – Peter Hunter (Cliff Ellmers) to work with Industry to develop a paper for the next RVAG meeting on PWC licence and Registration costs. Carry over to next meeting <b>Cliff Ellmers; Apology</b>	CE (On hold pending comment/agreement by CE) Ongoing
3.3	<b>Action item 3 – 20 Aug 2019</b> - Tony Hystek to coordinate stand up paddle boarding meeting with key stakeholders. Purpose: Paddle Board safety in the Harbour.	TH: Ongoing
3.4	<b>Action Item 8- 20 Aug 2019 – BC/TB/DH:</b> Send Surf Lifesaving information to David Hunter regarding Control cameras – DH to forward to RVAG Members <b>BC:</b> <i>Controlled Cameras SLS NSW operate/use access in their State Operation Centre. Currently access to 17 bar cameras along the NSW Coast Line. Also use publically available cameras; Coast watch cams, SLS NSW can actively control 10 cameras. Emergency Response Beacons (ERBs) also have cameras installed. The public can press button to activate camera like a video call. Five ERBs installed, new camera being installed at Central Coast, Northern beaches to be trialled prior for further deployment across the state.</i>	BC/TB/DH:  Completed (combined with 3.5 into new action)
3.5	<b>Action Item 9 – 20 Aug 2019</b> – Visibility to the Ocean by control of cameras. There are hazard surf warnings at Shelly Beach & Snapper Rock beach. Linking Modem situated on hills allows it to be redirected to mobile. <b>BC:</b> <i>Specific technical reference to a new (ERBs) has been installed at Snapper Rock Beach currently in a testing phase. Device is installed in the car park and has a direct view of the cave where there has been a significant number of rescues. Modem has been installed and a down link into the ERB, making it a functional response. Streaming videos and making calls back to Head Quarters.</i>	TB/BC:  Completed (combined with 3.4 into new action)  BC/TB

## Actions arising from previous meeting (11 Feb 2020)

3.6	<b>Action Item 1 – 11 Feb 2020</b> – DH: to contact Ski Racing NSW advising acceptance of membership <b>DH:</b> Announced Joh Horbury to the members and welcome him to RVAG <b>JH:</b> Great opportunity to be part of RVAG	DH: Completed
3.7	<b>Action Item 3 – 11 Feb 2020</b> - Provide updates from RBAG meetings. <b>CD:</b> <i>Review of RBAGS across the States, 17 in total, Review to cover chair role, role of RBAG, improve regional and local level of boating advisory, stakeholders and Maritime as chair and regulator. More information from 1 July 2020</i> <b>Chris will send an update to members, discuss off line.</b>	CD/DH: Ongoing
	<b>Action Item 4 – 11 Feb 2020</b> – Recovery of MV Efficiency containers lost at Port Stephens - Mid March/ April. Update RVAG members.	HC: Completed

3.8	<p><b>Hendrik Clasié:</b> AMSA planned and implemented the project and completed on 8 May 2020. 63 containers, contents have been recovered from the seabed and returned back to shore for disposal. Majority of containers have been removed. Great result. Refer to AMSA website.</p> <p><a href="https://www.amsa.gov.au/news-community/campaigns/operational-updates-ym-efficiency">https://www.amsa.gov.au/news-community/campaigns/operational-updates-ym-efficiency</a></p>	
3.9	<p><b>Action Item 5 – 11 Feb 2020</b> - Marine Pollution Act Amendments: RVAG members to contact Marie Lodge (TfNSW) or DH to provide further comments.</p>	ALL: Completed

## New Actions 12 May 2020

1	<p><b>Action Item 1. - 12 May:</b> Written feedback will be sent out to members providing the combined summary SLS NSW Brianna Coyte shared.</p>	BC
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